

Saipan Tribune

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INSIDE



Moon Landing

President Bush beckoned the nation "forward into the universe" on Wednesday, outlining a costly new effort to return Americans to the moon as early as 2015 and use it as a waystation to Mars and beyond.

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Phone & Health

There is no evidence linking mobile phones to cancer or other health problems, but more research needs to be done to be sure, a panel of experts said Wednesday.

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WTC Memorial

A revised design for the World Trade Center memorial was unveiled Wednesday and includes a subtle tribute to the rescue workers and an underground room where visitors can see twisted steel beams, a crushed fire truck and other artifacts from Sept. 11.

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Tight security for Norton, CodeL visit



Gov. Juan N. Babauta, left, poses with the members of the delegation of visiting U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Gale Norton, including DOI deputy assistant secretary David Cohen, right, and staff Richard Bernhardt, center, at the lobby of Hyatt Regency Hotel Saipan Thursday afternoon. Babauta, Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio, and other top local officials welcomed Norton's team as well as a U.S. congressional delegation at the Saipan International Airport at past 4pm yesterday.

By MARIAN A. MARAYA
REPORTER

Security is being kept tight in the visit of Interior Secretary Gale Norton and a delegation of U.S. lawmakers and staffers who arrived on island Thursday afternoon for a fact-finding mission in the CNMI.

Public Information Officer Peter A. Callaghan explained the tight security as a precautionary measure to protect the officials following the 9-11 attacks against the U.S. in 2001.

The group's visit, said Callaghan, is also an opportunity for the delegation to discuss with Gov. Juan N. Babauta and CNMI officials local issues of interest to the federal government.

Some local officials described the current tour as "mellow" in comparison to previous U.S. congressional visits that reportedly put the CNMI under tense scrutiny.

The group arrived at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan



Norton

International Airport at 4:30pm straight from Pohnpei. Callaghan noted that their arrival was 15 minutes earlier than expected. Members of the media were unable to attend the brief welcome ceremony that was slated for 5pm that same day since the delegation opted to head out of the airport some 5-10 minutes before 5pm to proceed to the Hyatt Regency Saipan to rest, tired as they were from the long flight.

Upon arrival, Norton

See **TIGHT** on Page 8

Agreement signed for Shanghai-Saipan flights

Century Travel and Century Tours, both affiliates of the Tan Holdings Corp., have signed an agreement with China Eastern Airlines to operate four charter flights between Shanghai and Saipan. Scheduled from Jan. 19 to Jan. 30, the direct air service is just in time for travelers to take advantage of the Lunar New Year holiday.

According to a statement by the company, this is a historic



occasion as it marks the first direct flight service from Shanghai to Saipan. The direct Shanghai-Saipan flights will be served by an Airbus 340 plane, which seats up to 285 passengers.

THC officials described the charter flight arrangement as an important milestone as it will further strengthen and develop the China tourism market

See **AGREEMENT** on Page 8

Arriola convicted in sex abuse case

By JOHN RAVELO
REPORTER

The Superior Court yesterday convicted lawyer Joseph Aldan Arriola on a charge of assault and battery for having sex with a 15-year-old girl about six years ago.

Associate Judge Juan T. Lizama ruled on the criminal case that has dragged on for

almost four years since it was filed in March 2000, following a plea agreement reached between Arriola and the Attorney General's Office.

Before handing down his decision, Lizama apprised Arriola of his constitutional rights entitling the defendant to put up his defense. Arriola gave

See **ARRIOLA** on Page 8

Guerrero and his passion to serve

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

Is he really running for governor?

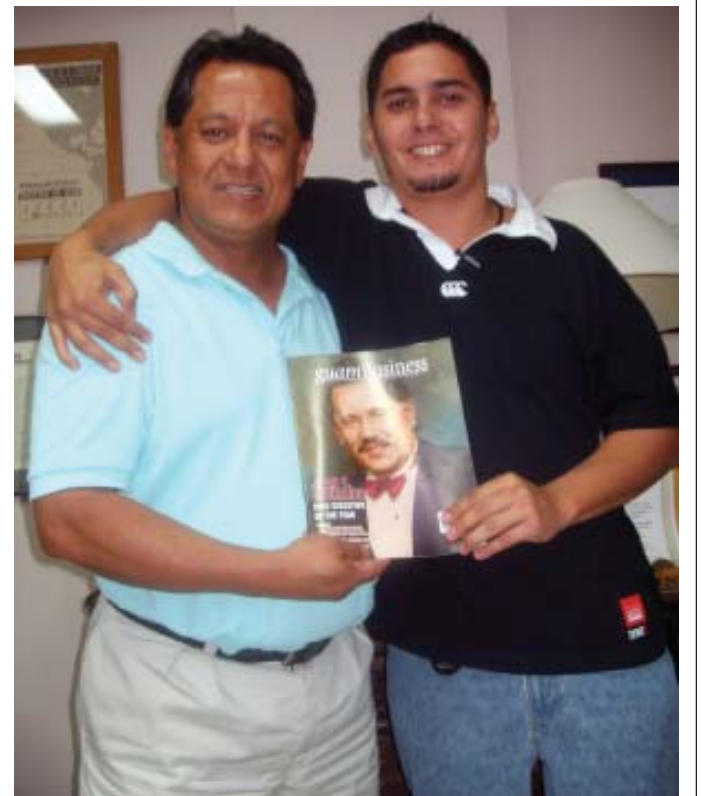
Businessman Juan Teno-rio Guerrero—the 2003 Executive of the Year choice of Guam Business—has made people extra curious, perhaps excited, over his recent pronouncement on his desire to run for the highest elective post in the Commonwealth.

Guerrero, 55, in his cover interview with Guam Business for its 2004 first quarter issue said, "The desire to grow is still within me to make that difference in my life, and to the people of the Commonwealth. I want to be the best governor of the NMI—and to be a good golfer."

Guerrero, who comes from one of the most influential families on Saipan, is not new to local politics.

In fact, he has been there

See **GUERRERO** on Page 8



LIBERTY DONES

Juan "Pan" T. Guerrero, left, and son John, hold a copy of the Guam Business first quarter 2004 issue, which features Guerrero as its 2003 Executive of the Year.

Local

napa
+yellow
blue

lottery

diabetes
+green

Direct Saipan-Shanghai service lauded



Ogren

By **JOHN RAVELO**
REPORTER

Gov. Juan N. Babauta views the charter flights that would fly between Shanghai and Saipan as a positive development that would boost the Commonwealth’s tourism industry.

The Marianas Visitors Authority shares the same view, with managing director Jonas Ogren saying the flights—the first to service Saipan and a major Chinese city—indicate travel demand from the Asian country.

“This will be really, really good for the tourism industry,” Babauta said. He said the CNMI government would want to ensure that the Chinese visitors that would avail of China Eastern Airlines’ charter flights would safely return to China, so that the Commonwealth’s pending application for an Approved Destination Status would not be jeopardized.

Optimistic about the Chinese government’s approval of the CNMI as a tourist destination, the governor said the CNMI is working closely with China National Tourism Administration chairman He Guangwei on the ADS application. He visited the CNMI unofficially sometime last year in connection with the ADS application.

Babauta also said that, while the CNMI is carefully looking at the reported re-occurrence of the severe acute respiratory syndrome in other parts of China, “there is nothing to be alarmed at this point.”

Ogren said the MVA would be supportive of private efforts to increase air service between China and the CNMI, calling the charter flights from Jan. 19 to 30 as “good news.”

“Shanghai is one of the biggest cities in China. It is one of the most important cities from where tourists come,” Ogren said.

The MVA is preparing for the influx of Chinese tourists to the islands, with the Pacific Asia Travel Association recently underscoring the potential of China as a growing market.

According to John Koldowski, PATA’s Strategic Intelligence Centre managing director, Chinese spending on travel is anticipated to reach \$100 billion by 2008. He reported that there were more departures from China than

from Japan—the CNMI’s premier tourism market—in 2002. More than 16 million people from China traveled outside the country, much higher than the 3.74 million recorded outbound travel in 1993.

Compared with travel statistics in 1996, PATA noted that China’s outbound travel soared by 328.1 percent, while that of Japan slightly went down by 1 percent.

In 2003, the CNMI’s China market remained strong despite the SARS problem during the middle of the year, ending with an increase of 45 percent compared with the 2002 total. The Federal Aviation Administration has also recently granted a permanent flight permit to China Southern Airlines, which flies between Guangzhou and Saipan, in collaboration with the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

ann

cbcruz

mcdo

JAL takes on China market

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
REPORTER

Japan Airlines has joined the China market bandwagon by promoting its Saipan-Kansai flights as a transit destination to 11 key cities in the People’s Republic of China.

JAL officials said yesterday that a new route network between Saipan and China via Kansai would make travel for CNMI residents easier through daily nonstop flights to Kansai and Narita.

JAL Group is developing the new Saipan-China route network via the Kansai airport, where a major hub is situated.

With the Saipan-Kansai daily flights, CNMI residents, the Chinese community, and businessmen would have an easier time in getting to their destinations, according to a JAL official who asked for anonymity.

JAL and JALWays are providing Saipan-Kansai-Beijing; Saipan-Kansai-Shanghai and Saipan-Kansai-Dalian flights and return trips from the host cities in China.

“Daily flights begin at 6am at the Saipan International Airport and arrive at Kansai at 8:35am. From Kansai and Narita, connecting flights are available,” said the airline official.

JAL group operates between Japan and eleven destinations in China including Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, Qingdao, Dalian, Shenyang, Xiamen, Guangzhou, Xian,

Kunming, and Hong Kong. The official added that the total number of JAL Group flights, including code share services with Chinese airlines, is over 200 flights per week. JAL group has now the biggest Japan-China route network, he added.

The Saipan-Kansai nonstop daily flight began in October 2003 but JAL officials are taking on the China market by promoting connecting flights at Kansai and Narita.

“We expect the residents and the businessmen to take the JAL flights to go to their China destinations. This would be an additional option for them,” said the airline official.

JAL is one of the key players in the tourism industry that has shown interest to the emerging China market.

China Southern Air pioneered the direct air service to the CNMI through its bi-weekly flight between Saipan and Guangzhou.

Another group that has joined efforts to tap the Chinese market is Century Travel and its affiliate, Century Tours, which both signed an agreement with China Eastern Airlines to operate four charter flights between Shanghai and Saipan. The flights are scheduled from Jan. 19 to 30.

The direct air service is just in time for travelers to take advantage of the Lunar New Year holiday. An Airbus 340, with 285 seating capacity, will serve the chartered air service between Shanghai-Saipan.

Youth Congress session this Saturday

The 6th CNMI Youth Congress is set to convene for a regular session tomorrow, Jan. 17, 10am at the House Chamber.

To be presided by Speaker Alvin C. Fejeran Jr., the session is the group’s first in what youth senators anticipate be the start of a busy year.

The new senators, comprised of 16 freshmen and seven returning members, were formally installed last October 2003.

Fejeran vowed to line up a series of activities for the youth organization to participate in, with his plans to develop and implement the CNMI-wide youth masterplan.

When he accepted the speakership—his second term in a row—Fejeran said he aims to produce a results-oriented organization.

Among others, the Youth Congress has plans to establish a CNMI chapter of the Big Brother Big Sister Program.

“We also plan on tackling new issues, as well as issues from the 5th Youth Congress. I am really very thankful for the support of the administration, the legislature and the public in general,” the

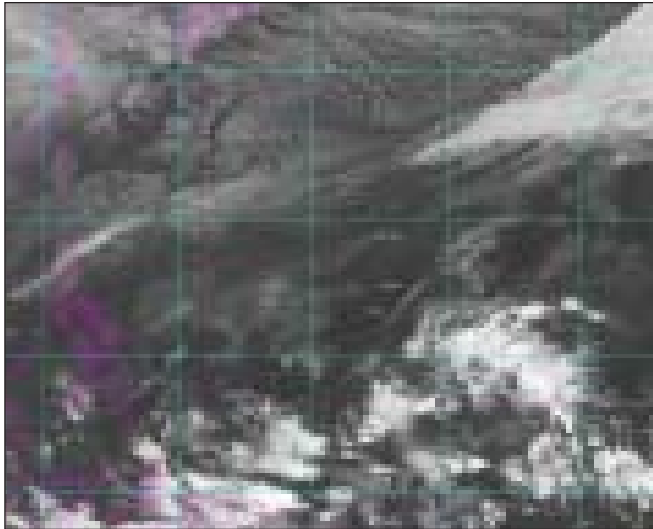
youth leader earlier said.

The 6th CNMI Youth Congress is comprised of Rota representatives Jamie Sablan Barcinas and Dwayne A. Bass, and Tinian representative Frank Lee Borja and Martina H. Diaz.

Representatives from Saipan schools include Naomi Cruz Cabrera of Grace Christian Academy, Roselle Calvo of Marianas Baptist Academy, Kristine Michaela Cruz of Northern Marianas Academy, Yveth Marie Mafnas of Calvary Christian Academy, Telson A. Ogumoro of Northern Marianas College, Christopher Cabrera Pangelinan of Marianas High School, Alvie Omega Sanchez of Kagman High School, Neichangpi Satur of NMC, Bill John Niro Tagabuel of NMC, Christopher Ada Tenorio of Mt. Carmel High School and Jackie Villagomez of Saipan Southern High School.

Saipan precinct representatives consist of Clarissa H. Campos, Josef Joachin Deleon Guerrero, Alvin Fejeran Jr., In Young Lee, Julio Mauldin, Brien Sers Nicholas Jr., Roque Ella Pulido and Delbert Pua. *(MM)*

WEATHER FORECAST



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 A.M., JANUARY 15, 2004
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Palau and yap between 1n and 6n from 135e to 150e. A surface trough runs along 156e from 3n to 12n. Scattered showers and thunderstorms associated with the trough are found across Chuuk... Pohnpei and Kosrae within 100 miles either side of a line from 8n150e to 10n156e to 1n166e to the equator at 171e. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers east of Majuro between 5n and 8n from 175e to 179e. A cold front extends from 25n155e to 19n151e...then continues southwest as a shear line to 13n130. Cloudiness and areas of rain are found along and up to 400 miles north of this boundary.



SAIPAN AND TINIAN
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10-15 mph.



GUAM AND ROTA
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10-15 mph.



PALAU
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast 10-15 kt.



POHNPEI
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.
Winds: East at 10 kt.



YAP AND ULITHI
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast 10-15 kt.



KOSRAE
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.
Winds: East at 10 kt.



CHUUK
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10 kt.



MAJURO
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: East at 15-20 kt.

| | CITY | FORECAST | HIGH | LOW |
|--|-----------------|---------------|-----------|------------|
| | Auckland | Cloudy | 73F (23C) | 59F (15C) |
| | Beijing | Partly Cloudy | 36F (2C) | 13F (-11C) |
| | Hong Kong | Partly Cloudy | 72F (22C) | 60F (16C) |
| | Honolulu | Partly Cloudy | 82F (28C) | 70F (21C) |
| | London, England | Partly Cloudy | 42F (6C) | 40F (4C) |
| | Los Angeles | Sunny | 69F (21C) | 50F (10C) |
| | Manila | Partly Cloudy | 85F (29C) | 71F (22C) |
| | Melbourne | Sunny | 69F (21C) | 55F (13C) |
| | Miami | Cloudy | 73F (23C) | 58F (14C) |
| | New York City | Partly Cloudy | 22F (-6C) | 0F (-18C) |
| | Osaka | Cloudy | 36F (2C) | 25F (-4C) |
| | Paris | Cloudy | 40F (4C) | 32F (0C) |
| | Pusan | Cloudy | 39F (4C) | 29F (-2C) |
| | Rome | Partly Cloudy | 61F (16C) | 36F (2C) |
| | Salem, Oregon | Cloudy | 52F (11C) | 38F (3C) |
| | San Francisco | Partly Cloudy | 58F (14C) | 48F (9C) |
| | Seoul | Partly Cloudy | 29F (-2C) | 19F (-7C) |
| | Tokyo, Japan | Partly Cloudy | 38F (3C) | 33F (-1C) |
| | Washington, DC | Partly Cloudy | 36F (2C) | 6F (-14C) |

CUC board to OK personnel classification, compensation

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board is set to adopt today a new personnel policy that will finally set the standards for personnel classification and compensation at the utility.

This, after the CUC recently received the report and recommendation of its off-island personnel consultant, Fox Lawson.

According to CUC spokesperson Pamela Mathis, Fox Lawson representatives will present the report to the CUC board and the public during a special meeting this afternoon.

The board approved lately the immediate reclassification of four CUC personnel—three from Rota and one from Tinian—without a base pay scale that was supposed to come from the consultancy company.

As pushed by Rota member Laura Manglona, the board majority’s vote essentially raised the salary of three Rota personnel from about \$17,000 to \$24,000 annually, and the Tinian staff from \$16,000 to \$22,000.

Nobody from Saipan was

approved for immediate re-classification. Saipan is said to have 28 employees due for rec-classification while Tinian has 20.

The board’s approval came despite a Dec. 22, 2003 recommendation from the CUC Human Resource Office “to place everything on hold...until the final report of Fox Lawson is submitted and adopted by the Board of Directors.”

HR manager Frankie Cepeda, in the memorandum, had warned that any changes to a position’s title, duties, and responsibilities, and or compensation “would affect the product of Fox Lawson.”

Earlier, all CUC employees were surveyed by Lawson by filling out position description questionnaire.

PDQs serve as the basis for each respective employee’s position classification and compensation.

The employees were reportedly asked to indicate “not their supposed duties and responsibilities, but rather their actual duties and responsibilities.”

They were also asked to put their actual position title.

Lawson’s report is expected to provide CUC with standards that ensures a fair and just employment package for its personnel and one that is at par with other utility firms in the region.

CUC was earlier cited by the Office of the Public Auditor as not having adequate personnel rules and regulations.

The OPA’s latest audit on the CUC’s premium, overtime, and salary increases showed that almost 18 percent of CUC personnel were receiving on-call pay, which is not addressed in its existing Personnel Manual, which had not been adopted by the CUC Board.

It also does not address premium pay or explain who should receive it and how it should be computed.

The OPA report also said that, of 22 CUC promotions, six were questionable. Likewise, of 46 exceptional employee evaluation reports given in 2000 and 2001, 23 were not supported by written justifications. The OPA said the CUC’s manual provides no criteria for justifying exceptional performance ratings.

church

yoga

baby news

cars

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

John Pangelinan PUBLISHER

Aldwin R. Fajardo EDITOR

Jayvee L. Vallejera ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Wrong Lesson

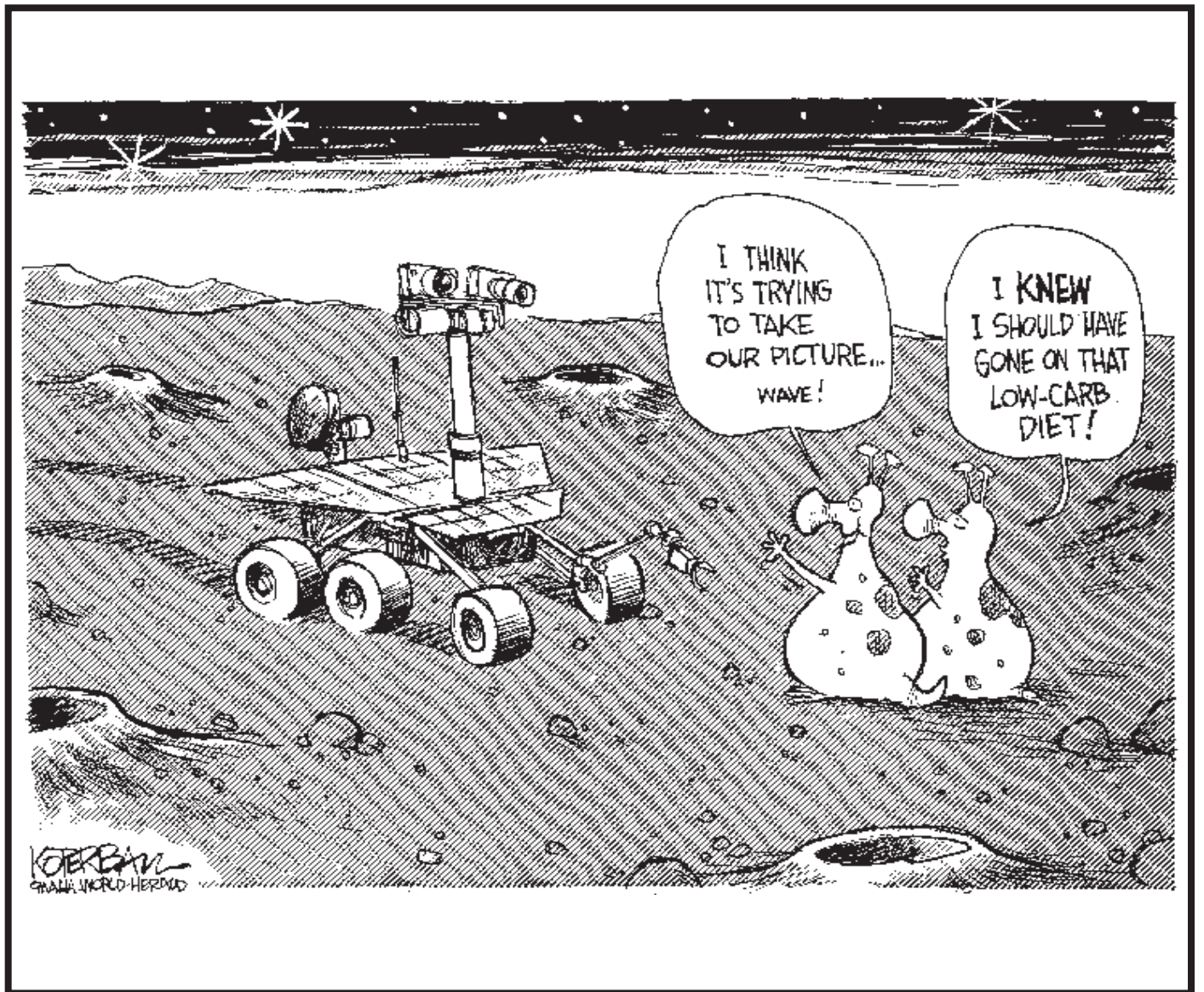
The Bush administration and its supporters have been celebrating the steps by Libya and Iran toward giving up the pursuit of weapons of mass destruction—a shift probably brought about at least in part by the proven willingness of the United States to use force to stop such illegal programs. Less noticed are signs that North Korea, the most dangerous of the world's rogue states, may have taken a different lesson from the intervention in Iraq. Pyongyang has launched a propaganda campaign that amounts to loudly denying that the secret program of uranium enrichment it admitted to about 18 months ago in meetings with a U.S. delegation really exists. Meanwhile, it is offering to renew the freeze on its well-documented stockpile of nuclear fuel rods and processed plutonium—for a big price. In essence North Korea seeks a return to the status quo before U.S. intelligence discovered its uranium enrichment, on the pretense that U.S. allegations about a secret weapons program are once again wrong. This reckless gambit could undo the modest progress that has been made toward a settlement in recent months.

So far few people in the West have questioned the Bush administration's conclusion that North Korea secretly built facilities to enrich uranium or that it admitted to them in an August 2002 meeting—perhaps because the evidence is considerably more conclusive than it was in the case of Iraq. But the North Korean denials have made headway in China, the nominal sponsor of recent talks about the weapons program. The administration counted Beijing's agreement to join it in seeking to prevent the North from becoming a nuclear power as the most tangible achievement of a policy that has often been paralyzed by infighting in Washington. Yet now senior Chinese officials are saying that they don't know or don't believe that North Korea is pursuing uranium enrichment. For Beijing, such a conclusion conveniently supports the idea that the United States should simply accept a new North Korean promise to "freeze" its plutonium in exchange for a long list of political and economic concessions. It offers the prospect of the short-term stability China seeks on the Korean Peninsula in exchange for the longer-term risk that North Korea would build a uranium-based bomb.

The Bush administration can be expected to reject Pyongyang's lies as well as any effort by China to build on them. The problem is that if South Korea's dovish government or those of Japan and Russia join in the make-believe, the United States could find that it, rather than the dictatorship of Kim Jong Il, is isolated in the "six-party" talks Washington has insisted on. Abandoning the process is a poor option, because North Korea could then be expected to rapidly proceed with the manufacture of nuclear warheads.

What's needed is some straight talk with China and other partners to the talks—but also a clearer and more attractive counter offer than the administration has made so far. Any deal must require North Korea to disclose and agree to dismantle all of its illegal weapons programs. But Pyongyang must also have an incentive to take that step; the Iraq example will not be enough.

The Washington Post



Traffic laws and workplace idiosyncrasies

We regularly see public advisories from the Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section about scheduled road safety inspections on the islands. Authorities have only the best of intentions in conducting such inspections as child restraint, seatbelt use, speed checks, and others.

It gives us a feeling of comfort that we can drive around the islands safely—or that we can reach our destination in one, whole piece. No bruise, no knocked head, and with scratch-free vehicles. Wonderful!

But what I don't understand is that while all of us—drivers and passengers—are required to buckle up while inside a moving vehicle, traffic enforcers actually allow unattended minors (or even adults) at the back of speeding pickup trucks. I don't have to mention that they are definitely not wearing seatbelts, right? Or do I?

This issue isn't new. It's been brought up too many times before but I'm bringing it up again for the simple reason that some of our men/women in uniform have apparently turned a blind eye to such a regular occurrence on Saipan roads. It's too regular a sight you can't actually miss one while you're driving on your way to the office in the morning and back to your house at night.

I thought that "discrimination" had long been dead. We're already on the fourth year of the new millennium so "racial discrimination" or "playing favorites" should have retired with the 1900s. I can't help—honestly, I know it's not just me—but think that some traffic officers are playing favorites in the enforcement of traffic laws, giving leeway to those who leave unattended kids at the back of speeding pickups for the basic reason that most people who drive pickup trucks are, eh, NOT foreigners.

I still firmly believe in the government's intention to maintain safe thoroughfares in the Northern Marianas but I also believe that this is achievable only when the laws are properly and fairly implemented—meaning, regardless of whether or not someone's from here, he/she should get the same retribution if he/she violates the law.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Think about it: Most of us spend more time at work than we do at home. At a minimum, we are required to spend eight hours each day in the workplace, which could mean that we spend about 75 percent of the time we are awake at the office—with our officemates and our bosses.

It is utterly important therefore that we are happy with our jobs and the people we deal with at work. The opposite of which could make the workplace hell's counterpart on Earth—or worse.

You may be working with a slave-driving boss but if the

By ALDWIN R. FAJARDO

The views expressed are strictly that of the author.
Fajardo is the editor of the Saipan Tribune.



environment you share with your officemates or colleagues is one that is filled with harmony and cooperation, it would help outweigh the pressures you constantly get from your superior.

I've been through numerous publications since the first time I started writing professionally. And although I had fun with most of the papers I wrote for, I always choose to leave the kitchen everytime the heat becomes intolerable.

But remember that I only changed companies—not my profession. For me, writing is like eating rice: It will always be a part of the meal, I only change the dish that goes with it.

Prior to my employment with Saipan Tribune, the longest time I spent in a newspaper company was one year and seven months; the shortest was four months. I never thought I could last more than two years in a company but I've been with the Tribune for more than four years now and I still wanted to count more.

Does it mean it never gets hot in the Tribune's kitchen? Oh it does! I just make it sure that I find coolness in the midst of the scouring heat.

One labor expert wrote that it is sometimes easy to forget that our co-workers are human too; that they have their own weaknesses, habits and needs and sometimes that gets pushed aside in the daily rush.

To get along better with the people we work with, it is important that we start seeing them as part of us, and start understanding their personalities better. To build a strong team, it is important that each person has an insight into each person's dominant personality characteristics and how this is similar or different to their own.

The result? Jobsite.com said it will be easier to understand what drives and motivates our boss, co-workers and clients in order to build satisfying, empathetic and deeper working relationships. So that emotions such as resentment, jealousy, fear, revenge and anger, which drive conflict within the workplace, can be understood for what they are—simply a misunderstanding between people.

But then again, there will always be things that are just too difficult to understand...

The adult GPA

Whether it's the Commonwealth seeking to float \$40 million in bonds, or your brother in law trying to finance a car, it seems like every entity and living being on the planet has got a credit rating and credit score appended to their name.

Oh, yuck, credit scores. Does anyone really want to hear about those?

Well, the good citizens of the Commonwealth should, given that the ghost of the Union Bank of California may be haunting your financial records. UBOC is long gone from our shores, but if you held a UBOC credit card, you may have been subjected to a little surprise. At issue is the fact that UBOC actually transferred some or all (I've been told it was all) of its credit card business to another company.

The transfer actually pre-dated UBOC's exodus from our fair shores, and the two events were entirely unrelated.

If you ever dealt with UBOC, you'll recall that they were a prime bank, a quality outfit. UBOC, is a corporate cousin of the Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi, and the Japanese focus on excellent customer service was certainly a hallmark of UBOC's operations. First Hawaiian Bank, as you know, picked up UBOC's action here and retained many of the excellent staffers, which was good news for the community.

On the less happy end of things, when UBOC slipped its credit card business to another company, things didn't end so well. You have to be very careful who you deal with in the credit card industry, since not all companies are honorable.

As for any former UBOC customers, then, you should review your records carefully. If you have a credit card that has "Union Bank of California" stamped on the front, it may not really be issued by UBOC. Yikes! If you find some unknown company lurking in the background on that one, I'd advise closing the account immediately and taking your business to another place. This is a "consumer alert" from me, and I'll be happy to compile reader feedback on this note, so feel free to e-mail me any experience you may have had along these lines. I have uncovered some disturbing information on the topic and my interest is piqued, big time.

Since I'm on the credit topic, I'll mention that American Express, as well as at least one credit reporting agency, is selling a credit monitoring service. These guys eyeball your credit activity on a daily basis, in order to prevent identity theft or other monkey business from messing with your records. I paid 99 buckaroos to enroll in the service for one year. Cheapskate that I am, I think it's worth dropping a C-note on the deal.

Credit records have become the Grade Point Average of adult life. It's worth keeping an eye on your files.

Meanwhile, I'm gathering the writing files for next year; we've got a lot of ground to cover. The Commonwealth economy will be the hot topic, of course. And—drum roll—yours truly is preparing to launch a new business that you'll be hearing about, which is why I've been in meetings with attorneys this week and have not answered anyone's calls or e-mails. So much for goofing off during the holidays. In fact, I get so worn out planning for 2004 already that I'm wishing that 2003 would last a couple of months longer. I guess that Santa can't deliver more time to even the best of boys and girls.



By ED STEPHENS

Ed Stephens, Jr. is an economist and columnist for the Saipan Tribune. "Ed4Saipan@yahoo.com"

Some soulful memories in papa's bag

You had to take off your shoes. No shoes on the gym floor. No sneakers, either. Not if you were going to do the James Brown during a pep rally at my high school. And during those years, from 1966 to 1968, whenever the band broke into, say, "Papa's Got a Brand New Bag," you were going to do the James Brown. You had to.

If Martin Luther King Jr. was telling us to stride toward freedom, Brown was showing us how to glide toward it. And of course, we all wanted to arrive in style.

Unlike the twist or the funky chicken, the James Brown required both frenzy and precision—qualities that represented the tensions of our times as we moved from the regimented life of Old South segregation (my school was Booker T. Washington High in Shreveport, La.) toward a world where you could finally say it loud, "I'm Black and I'm Proud!"

The Kennedy Center Honors that Brown received Sunday brought back those memories.

"We honor one of the most influential musicians of the last 50 years," Kennedy Center Chairman James A. Johnson said of Brown. That would put the onset of Brown's influence pretty close to the start of my life.

Last year, I read a profile of Brown in the New Yorker magazine that led me to the conclusion that given Soul Brother No. 1's troubles with the drug PCP and the police, his struggles with past wives, mistresses, girlfriends and others, along with the fallout from some peculiar political stands, he was lucky to be alive.

"Race, poverty and exclusion were the defining features of James Brown's childhood world, and he might easily have seen himself as cursed," Philip Gourevitch wrote in the New Yorker. "Instead, he seems to have understood himself to be a free agent—denied the comforts of a conventional home, but also spared its constraints—with no choice but to fight for emancipation however he could."

Did that explain Brown's weird behavior—or how he survived in spite of it? Did too much adulation and exaltation lead him to believe that he could do no wrong? A Look magazine article in 1969 declared: "James Brown is a new important leader. His constituency dwarfs Stokely Carmichael's and the late Dr. Martin Luther King's." Did such twisted statements go to his head?

All I know is that during adolescence, I'd break out in a cold

"With each repetition, he invested the monosyllable with a different emotional accent and stress—prayer and pride, impatience and invitation—and although there was ache in his voice, he did not sound like a man pleading so much as commanding what was rightfully his."

By COURTLAND MILLOY
The Washington Post



sweat right along with the Godfather of Soul. I never knew why papa needed a brand-new bag, unless it had wine in it; but I knew what to say when I got something new: "I feel good!" or "I got the feeling!"

And the only way to express that feeling was to do the James Brown—to glide on one leg, if you could, with head bobbing and fists pumping, then spin, jump and fall into a 180-degree split, then snap back up—unhurt—and resume your glide.

I also knew how it felt not to get anything at all, especially from a girl. Again, Brown provided words and rhythm suitable to the occasion in what must be the best begging song of all time by a male vocalist, "Please, Please, Please."

I counted the word "please" 25 times—seven times back-to-

back at the start—on a recording that lasts less than three minutes.

Gourevitch dissected Brown's performance: "With each repetition, he invested the monosyllable with a different emotional accent and stress—prayer and pride, impatience and invitation—and although there was ache in his voice, he did not sound like a man pleading so much as commanding what was rightfully his."

This was not a song for doing the James Brown. Our band couldn't play it, and nobody but Brown could sing it. You couldn't whistle or hum it, either. You could, however, put it on a record player to convey your desire for that special someone to stay just a little longer.

Oh, yes. Good God almighty. Honey, please. Don't. Ohhh. Oh, yeah. Lord. I love you so. Pleeceeeeee. Don't go. Pleece-ee-ee-ease. Don't go. Honey, please don't go. Oh. I love you so. Please. Please.

Singer Bonnie Raitt was quoted in the Kennedy Center Honors program as saying about Brown, "You couldn't even list how many people have been influenced by him."

If only she knew how true that was.

Foreign currencies and CNMI's economy

How do changes in value of foreign currencies affect the CNMI's economy?

International currencies, which are free floating, trade like commodities in the international financial markets and their values are determined on buying and selling volumes. However, some countries keep the value of their currencies fixed and only change as they deem necessary or due to international pressure. Examples of free floating currencies are Japanese yen and American dollar while Chinese yuan is fixed in value. Exchange rates are expressed as value of one country's currency in terms of another country's currency. For example, current price or value of Japanese Yen in terms of U.S. dollar is around 110 yen per dollar, similar to how we express the price of a commodity, such as 2 pounds of bananas per dollar.

When the value of a given country's currency rises its products become expensive to other countries to buy and vice versa. For example, U.S. dollar value against yen has decreased from about 120 to 110 yen in about a year. It means that the prices of the Japanese products for us have increased and the prices of our products to Japanese have decreased. In our case, the CNMI's products and services are cheaper to Japanese visitors because the fall in the value of dollar in terms of yen has increased their buying power. This is also a very favorable factor to get more visitors or the visitors who come here to spend more. On the other hand for the Japanese investors who have to send back their investment returns to their parent companies, this factor is unfavorable because it has reduced the yen value of their returns. It has also reduced the yen value of salaries of Japanese business managers who work here.

Now, looking at the Philippines' case whose currency has been consistently falling against the dollar, this has an opposite effect to

By DR. MOHAMMAD ASHRAF



that of Japan. As soon as the Philippine peso falls, it implies an automatic rise in the wages of Filipino workers in the CNMI because they get paid in dollars. In this case it would be in the best interest of Filipino workers to keep their savings in dollars and send home only enough to meet the needs of their families. Unlike Filipino workers, Chinese workers don't have incentive to keep their savings here because the value of their currency is fixed by the government. As you may have noticed in the national news media the matter of

fixed value of Chinese Yuan (RMB) is under serious debate between the U.S. and China. The U.S. government thinks the Chinese are keeping the value of their currency artificially low, which makes U.S. products expensive in China and Chinese products cheaper in the US. The logic behind this argument is there is over a \$100 billion trade deficit between the U.S. and

China. The United States is asking China to set higher rate of its currency or expect retaliatory actions.

In conclusion, I would say our government has no influence whatsoever on the value of any currency and we have to learn to live with the consequences of changing values of currencies particularly in our region. I may also add the news reporting of currency rates would be a valuable service to businesses and workers alike.

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Norton pushes 'new start' for insular areas

By **LIBERTY DONES**
REPORTER

Visiting U.S. Interior Secretary Gale Norton is serious about the insular areas and is committed to helping them make "a start" to ensure greater economic independence, according to DOI deputy assistant secretary David Cohen.

"We're very pleased to have the Secretary here. She [has] the responsibility with respect to territories. She takes that seriously so she wants to come here and see firsthand the issues she's been following up," Cohen said in an interview yesterday.

Cohen stressed that Norton is committed to giving a good start to insular areas, citing her

initiative to entice investors to relocate to various territories such as the CNMI.

Norton, Cohen and other DOI representatives arrived on Saipan yesterday afternoon, together with a delegation from the U.S. House of Representatives headed by House Resources Committee chairman, Calif. Rep. Richard Pombo.

Cohen said that Norton's visit is part of her goal to better understand issues affecting the Commonwealth.

"She's following up the issues that I've been advising her in Washington; issues such as the garment industry, submerged lands, immigration, that sort. But she also wants to get a flavor of the islands, see some of the

historical sites, and just see what its like," he said.

Norton's team is expected to depart for Guam tomorrow, where she will proceed later to American Samoa.

Before Saipan, the delegation had been to Pohnpei and a neighboring island.

Norton and the congressional delegation were welcomed yesterday by top government officials led by Gov. Juan N. Babauta at the Saipan International Airport.

Cohen expressed confidence that the CNMI will greatly benefit from the investment conferences held in Washington D.C. last September, and in Tokyo in October.

He said, though, that solid results may not be visible at this

time. "It's a very long-term process for any business to decide to relocate here. We expect no solid results in the short term but we expect a lot of results later.

"The first thing to do is to make people aware about the opportunities, then the process begins. It will take a lot of time," he added.

Babauta said last week that the administration is looking forward to showing Norton and the rest of the delegation the CNMI's attractions and, at the same time, talk to them about local issues.

Local enforcement agencies, as well as the National Parks Service, have been tasked to provide the group's security while in the CNMI.

GUERRERO

From Page 1

three times: first as member of the House of Representatives from 1984 to 1986; and twice as member of the Senate from 1986 to 1991.

In an interview with Saipan Tribune at his office in Garapan this week, Guerrero said the vision of being a governor "is nothing new," saying "it's been there at the back of my mind."

"But I have not made any declaration," he quickly added.

At this time, he said, the idea remains at the exploratory stage. "I'm exploring my options. I will check with my families, my elders, my relatives. We don't want people to think that we're power-hungry," he said.

Guerrero noted that two Tenorios have already become governors, including former Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, who held the highest post three times. He said he is also aware that Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente—a second cousin—would naturally be eyeing the position.

"I will explore my options," he reiterated.

My intention is there—to be the best I can be in whatever I do."

What kind of governor would he become? "I want to bring the government back to the people. I want to make it clean—free from any special interests. I would want to be the governor who speaks for the people. I want fiscal responsibility and accountability," he said.

Guerrero disclosed during the interview that he has actually received "tons" of letters and e-mails from people from various places primarily for two reasons: to congratulate him for being the 2003 Executive of the Year and to encourage him on his political plan.

Some people, he said, have actually inquired whether they could already make banners and posters for his candidacy.

"It touches my heart every time I see people giving their trust in me. I'm happy to tell you the truth," he said.

Asked what he had accomplished as a member of the 4th, 5th, and 6th Legislature, Guerrero immediately recalled his legislative work for the passage of the laws creating two major autonomous agencies: the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the Commonwealth Development Authority.

He said he was also instrumental in the passage of a measure to make government salaries more attractive for qualified professionals.

"They called me a renegade, a gadfly for pushing hard for needed changes and reforms," he said.

Amid his major achievements and great potential, Guerrero personally feels that he is more of a businessman than politician. "I am a businessman," he said, but noted that it was during his childhood days when he would help his father run the family bakery in Chalan Kanoa that he came to know old folks, who

essentially introduced him to politics and public service.

"I see them everyday, Godfredo Sanches, Andy Roberto, and many others whose faces are still fresh in my memory. They would come and encourage me." He said it was former Saipan mayor Kilili Sablan who finally stirred his heart into joining the political arena.

Guerrero, who currently runs a chain of businesses in the CNMI, received the Executive of the Year award for his remarkable business skills as manifested in his ability to keep his family business up, create his own conglomerate, and develop and grow them successfully over the years.

Guerrero is president and general manager of the family business, Herman's Modern Bakery, president and chief executive officer of Paras Enterprises Saipan, president of Juan T. Guerrero & Associates Inc., president of GTS Security Inc., president of Marianas International Travel Agency, president of GTS Construction and Manpower Services, and president of GT Investment Inc.

Guerrero is also vice president of Oceania Management Group Inc. dba Odesigns, vice president and director of Hafadai Beach Hotel, secretary/treasurer of Rota Industrial Inc., and a member of the board of directors of Rota Terminal and Transfer Co. Inc.

He is also credited for his dedication to the cause of the CNMI American Red Cross, where he held numerous positions, including chairman of the financial development committee and disaster fundraising officer.

He is widely applauded for his introduction of an annual fundraising event called Club 200 in 1987, which is said to have raised some \$2 million for the CNMI-ARC.

For always ending up on top in his projects, Guerrero is a 1991 and 2002 national recipient of the ARC Volunteer Fundraiser Award, 2003 recipient of the Outstanding Disaster Fundraiser Volunteer Award of ARC, 2001 and 2002 recipient of Saipan Rotary Club's Citizen of the Year award, and 2002 recipient of a resolution of commendation by the 26th Guam Legislature.

He is also a member of countless other organization including the Professional Bakers Association and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, which he had led as president years ago.

Looking at all these, Guerrero said his business and personal victories are mainly due to hard work, dedication, and the strong support of his family, especially his wife, Roberta—"the one who keeps me in balance."

"I'm [personally] inspired. But my wife is my inspiration. She keeps me in balance. If I'm mad and I would write a letter, I would give it to her and she would tell me, 'Tone it down.'"

Guerrero and Roberta, who have been married for 30 years now, are blessed with five children: Vince, Jolene, Tracy, John, and Michael.

TIGHT

From Page 1

reportedly remarked how glad she was to set foot on the CNMI, which is her first ever visit here.

Callaghan quoted the secretary as saying that seeing the CNMI first hand will give her a better perspective of the insular area rather than just reading about the islands from press releases.

The secretary also reportedly hopes to use the visit to better understand the islands and how to better help it. U.S. congressman Richard Pombo, chairman of the House Committee on Resources, also offered some remarks thanking

the CNMI for warmly welcoming the delegation into the islands, according to Callaghan.

The PIO quoted the lawmaker as saying that he is looking forward to a proactive visit.

Gov. Juan N. Babauta, who led the welcoming of the delegation members along with House Speaker Benigno Fitial and Senate President Joaquin G. Adriano, also reportedly said that he is looking forward to discussing local issues with the U.S. lawmakers and Norton.

CNMI's Rep. to Washington Pete A. Tenorio, whose office coordinated the delegation's visit, thanked the U.S. officials for honoring the CNMI people

with their historic visit.

"Today, our islands are peaceful, and we proudly welcome you with so much to thank you for: for liberating our people during the second world war, for the sacrifices of thousands of American soldiers who gave their lives for the cause of freedom and liberty, and for adopting us as one of America's own, and granting us a political relationship that is second to none, a relationship that is based on American democracy, which we are so gratefully cherishing today," said Tenorio, in his welcome speech.

A busy day awaits Norton and the codel today, starting off with breakfast to be

hosted by Tenorio.

Afterwards, the group is off to tour World War II sites to be followed by a luncheon to be hosted by the governor.

The group is also expected to appear at the groundbreaking of the Visitors Center and Marianas Memorial Garden at the American Memorial Park in the afternoon today.

The Codel's entourage includes Cong. Pombo, Cong. Frank Lucas, Cong. Jeff Flake, Cong. Dennis Rehberg, Cong. Dennis Cardoz, Cong. Eni Faleomavaega, and Cong. Madeleine Bordallo, Secretary Norton, Deputy Assistant Secretary David Cohen, and congressional staffers.

AGREEMENT

From Page 1

through Shanghai, as well as open new doors for the CNMI to expand its visitor industry.

"With our Century Travel offices in Hong Kong and Shanghai, we have the opportunity to create an additional source of visitors to improve the CNMI's tourism industry," said THC President Willie Tan. "This is part of our long-term commitment to

the CNMI and the industry. We are very happy to help boost the islands' economy by bringing direct access between the CNMI and Shanghai and, if this is well received, possibly other locations in China in the future."

Executive Vice President of THC and Century Group President Jerry Tan said the charter arrangement is just the beginning of the company's expansion in the tourism market.

"We would like to see these

charter flights between Shanghai and Saipan become ongoing charters. With the eventual opening of the Chinese outbound market, we are optimistic that it will also bring the CNMI's tourism industry to higher grounds," said Tan. "THC has chosen to tap the China market through Shanghai, the financial capital of China and one of the richest cities in the country. Shanghai, the hub and headquarters of China Eastern

Airlines, has the geographic advantage from where connecting flights to other major cities in China set off."

THC President Willie Tan thanked Gov. Juan N. Babauta for his support in making the charter flights possible. In addition, he also credited the support given by the Attorney General's Office, Marianas Visitors Authority and the Commonwealth Ports Authority for facilitating the charter flights.

ARRIOLA

From Page 1

firm answers indicating he will fully decided to enter a guilty plea.

"I take full responsibility," Arriola said. "I have suffered a great deal."

He said the publicity generated by the case has negatively affected not only his family but also his law practice.

Lizama imposed a 30-day imprisonment on Arriola but the prison term was suspended. The judge also fined him \$1,000, payable within 30 days, and placed him on probation for one year.

Besides assessing Arriola court fees and restitution to the victim, Lizama also tasked the lawyer to send a letter of apology to the woman and a copy of the court judgment on

the criminal case to the CNMI's Bar Association.

Lizama denied, though, the request of Arriola's counsel, former Supreme Court justice Pedro Atalig, that records of the case be expunged. He said Arriola could make the request once the victim accepts the defendant's apology.

Lizama imposed the suspended prison term on Arriola even if CNMI chief prosecutor David Hutton asked that the defendant be jailed.

"I'd like the court to consider young women in the Northern Mariana Islands," Hutton said. "I'd like to see some jail time imposed."

After the sentencing, Hutton said he was dissatisfied with the court's ruling. "I think it sent the wrong message. [You commit] sexual abuse of a child, [get the case] tied up for four years, and

you get rewarded for it." Hutton said, though, that he has to accept the ruling as an officer of the court.

In handing down the sentence, Lizama said jail term would have been automatic had the case been decided a year or two from its filing. The judge noted that the victim has grown from being a minor, adding the woman's reluctance to testify against Arriola.

The magistrate also favored the contention of Arriola's camp about the negative publicity generated by the case, saying the lawyer has been virtually "punished" by the media. "Anything that was written in the paper stays in the mind of the people."

Atalig said that Arriola has been affected by the case's publicity, pointing out that his client's imprisonment is

unnecessary. "Our society in the CNMI is a society of forgiveness."

Right after the judge handed down the sentence, Hutton objected to the magistrate's reasoning, saying that Arriola should have been meted out a stricter penalty because the defendant is a lawyer who intentionally broke the law.

Besides reiterating that Arriola has suffered from negative publicity and noting the victim's absence in the proceedings, the judge said: "It's a simple assault and battery [case]."

Some lawyers who witnessed the proceedings shook Arriola's hands after he was sentenced. Arriola told the media about his apologies to the victim. With the case already concluded, Arriola said it's time to move on. "I have no idea what the Bar Association will do," he added.

MHS, SSHS bag education grant awards



Saipan Southern High School and Marianas High School collectively won over \$500,000 in education grants meant to boost health-related services, computer literacy, and the fundraising capability in public schools.

Gov. Juan N. Babauta made the announcement yesterday in a presentation held at the MHS cafeteria. The grants form part of the administration’s education initiative.

SSHS bested other school applicants in two of the three education grants so far awarded, securing \$320,000 to equip its entire Sophomore class with laptop computers under the Computers in Classrooms Grant, plus \$62,000 to hire a development director that will be tasked to raise money to supplement the school’s needs under the Development Director Pilot Program.

MHS, for its part, outdid other schools by capturing the \$125,000 Healthy Student Pilot Grant designed to empower the CNMI’s very first public high school to set up a health-related services program for students.

Babauta, in announcing the winners yesterday, assured that more grant awards are forthcoming as he reiterated his commitment to support education in the Northern Marianas.

He noted that the administration has already doled out cash awards to Teacher of the Year winners in late November.

The school recipients, through its top administrators, accepted the grant awards yesterday and thanked the administration for its efforts to support education.

MHS Principal James Denight acknowledged the significant input of Roxanne Diaz in the school’s grant application, and promised to work diligently to provide students with a topnotch healthcare center.

SSHS administrator Peter Le’au, for his part, expressed appreciation to the governor and his senior policy advisor, Robert Schwalbach, for coming up with the education grants.

Schwalbach assured that the decision to award the grants to the two schools was determined by a committee that worked individually to score the grant applications against a set of criteria.

“We tried to make the decision-making process as objective as possible. Each one of which had a certain number

of points associated with it. Then those evaluations were all compiled. The school with the highest score was awarded the grant,” the governor’s senior advisor explained.

In the coming weeks, he

explained that the administration will hammer out with the school recipients the grant terms and conditions.

“The governor mentioned that we have never had this kind of grant program before from

the Northern Marianas government, so we’re inventing the process as we go. We want it to be as easy as possible for the schools because we want to see the money get [fully] used as quickly as possible. So we

don’t want to create a great bureaucracy.

“On the other hand, we have to make sure that we do have some kind of accounting, a reporting procedure that will allow the money to be used the

way it’s supposed to. I think we’ll be able to work that out.

The schools are very easy to work with and we all share the same goals,” Schwalbach told reporters yesterday. *(Marian A. Maraya)*

microl oh yeah
+red

Bennett or Yangetmai for Teacher Rep

By **LIBERTY DONES**
REPORTER

On Monday, January 19, public school teachers will elect either Ambrose Bennett or James Yangetmai as their new representative to the Board of Education.

The election, which is conducted by the Office of the Governor, will be held from 9am to 6pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Hall in Susupe on Saipan; Tinian Youth Center on Tinian; and at the Northern Marianas College campus on Rota.

Yangetmai, the candidate

fielded by the Association of Commonwealth Teachers, said the election “is a positive thing” for CNMI teachers.

“This is an islandwide election. It’s a good opportunity for all teachers to choose the best person who will represent their concerns on BOE,” he said.

Yangetmai is a long-time PSS teacher who is currently teaching social studies at Marianas High School.

“I turned in my candidacy because I feel that I can work well with the BOE and can bring up teachers’ concerns,” he said.

Yangetmai has said that he

subscribes to a diplomatic style of resolving issues “instead of aggressiveness.”

Bennett, a social science teacher at Kagman High School, called on teachers to go out and participate in a historical process.

“For the first time in the history of the CNMI, all teachers are being respected and given the right to decide their Teacher Rep. to BOE in an open election. For the first time, teachers will have a real opportunity to collectively bargain should they vote for me,” he said.

TRC took note that it was actually through Bennett’s

efforts that the election would take place, noting that he has worked hard for it as enshrined in the CNMI Constitution.

Meantime, ACT said it has over 100 teacher members.

ACT president Sapuro Rayphand earlier submitted a list of the member teachers to the Governor’s Office for accreditation purposes.

Under the rules, a teachers’ group needs to submit a list of at least 50 full time members, and a written by-laws adopted by majority of the members.

The by-laws will include a list of officers, their duties, their

election, and a procedure for nominating a candidate for teachers’ representative.

Bennett earlier said that TRC has more than 200 member teachers.

Once elected and appointed by the governor, a teacher representative shall serve on the board for four years.

The Governor’s Office decided to conduct the general election amid legal ambiguities on the appointment of a BOE teacher representative from PSS.

The BOE honorary seat for PSS teachers has been vacant since middle of 2002.

AMP to break ground for new projects

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the construction of the \$5.6-million American Memorial Park’s Visitor Center and Marianas Memorial Garden will be held at the Amphitheater Parking Lot on Friday, Jan. 16, at 2pm. The public is invited.

Expected to be on hand are U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Gale Norton, Gov. Juan N. Babauta, as well as National Park Service and other Commonwealth officials.

“We had hoped to have fully complete the project in time for the 60th Anniversary of the Battles of Saipan and Tinian this June 2004,” said Park Ranger Chuck Sayon, “but some plans were held back to ensure a top quality product.”

It is expected that the Marianas Memorial Garden and upgraded Amphitheater facilities will be completed in time for the 60th Anniversary. A partial completion of the Visitor Center will also be done for a ceremonial ribbon-cutting program so that visiting World War II veterans will get a feel for the exhibits that will be on display.

The Visitor Center, when completed in early 2005, will have a 120-seat conference and audio-visual theater, a World War II Library, bookstore and sales area, and office space for American Memorial Park Service interpretive staff.

Red flag raised on one Rota site

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on District No. 2 Storm Drainage on Rota, and advised the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this location for the next 48 hours.

DEQ said that samples collected from this location contained excessive concentrations of two fecal indicator bacteria—fecal coliform and enterococci—that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

The agency pointed out, though, that studies have shown that storm water runoff in

tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

“Therefore, in order to adequately address public health concerns, DEQ has given the location a red flag and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations...until otherwise notified,” the agency said.

DEQ analyzes samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 12 locations on Rota every week. DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions.

dial rent

Police investigate arson incident

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
REPORTER

Authorities are now looking into a possible arson incident in Koblerville where an unidentified suspect set a vehicle on fire in Koblerville last week, police said yesterday.

Also, police department

spokesperson Sgt. Tom Blas Jr. said, authorities are now investigating the identity of the person who was last seen slumped over the driver's seat before the blaze began.

Blas said the police received a call for assistance on Jan. 10 around 3:40am after residents saw a Toyota 4x4 pick up truck

on fire near the Coral Ocean Point Hotel in Koblerville.

Initial investigation disclosed that the vehicle was seen parked along the northbound lane across the hotel facing north. An unidentified male was seen slumped over the driver's seat.

Investigators said a hotel employee called the Department

of Public Safety to notify authorities of the incident. Police officers were immediately dispatched to the scene to investigate.

According to law enforcers, the vehicle had no license plate and the man who was seen slumped inside the car was no longer there when police arrived. "There was no occupant when

the fire was controlled by responding rescue and engine personnel," said Blas.

Fire investigators believe that the fire was intentionally set. The vehicle is now in police custody.

"The vehicle was secured and taken to DPS central for further processing. The vehicle

sustained extensive damage in the hood area, interior and midway to the bed portion," investigators reported.

Authorities are now trying to find out who owns the vehicle and the identity of the male last seen inside the car before the fire occurred.

Babauta visits San Antonio school

Anna Lizama's class at San Antonio Elementary School, while learning about government and elected leaders, wanted so badly to meet the governor that she and her students sent a letter requesting that he visit



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Juan N. Babauta poses with Anna Lizama's students in their classroom, following the general student assembly held at the San Antonio Elementary School.

their classroom.

Gov. Juan N. Babauta accepted their invitation and met with the students yesterday morning. With his school visit, not being a regular occurrence,

the SAES school administration decided to organize a special student assembly to give the students the opportunity to personally ask the governor about issues in the CNMI, as well as

his role in the government.

Following the assembly, Babauta decided to pay a private visit to Lizama's classroom, since it was because of their request that he visited the school.

Cha Cha school reports theft

The Oceanview Junior High School lodged a theft complaint Monday afternoon after unknown suspects burglarized one of its classrooms.

Police department spokesperson Sgt. Tom Blas Jr. said Cha Cha High School officials filed the complaint Monday at 12:30pm after school personnel noticed a missing DVD player.

Blas said preliminary investigation by COPPS officer Imelda Mamaril showed that the burglary happened inside a classroom at the second floor of the school.

The suspects entered the classroom through a door from an adjoining room. Investigation added that an air condition cover was removed from the outside and used as the point of entry for the suspects.

Once inside, the perpetrators took a black DVD player that students and teachers use for classroom activities.

The police department immediately ordered the Thief Apprehension Select Coalition to investigate the incident. No arrest has been made yet, Blas added.

The DPS spokesman urged the community to help authorities resolve the incident by calling in information that may lead to the arrest of the suspects.

Individuals can call the TASC-Criminal Investigation Bureau at 664-9042 or the NMI Crime Stoppers at 234-7272.

The NMI Crime Stoppers pays up to \$1,000 in reward for information leading to an arrest. All calls are anonymous. *(Edith G. Alejandro)*



Juvenile detention facility relocates

Effective 4:30pm today, the current Juvenile Detention Facility in Kagman II will cease operations and close its doors. Juvenile corrections and detention operations will thereafter be conducted at the new Juvenile Detention And Correctional Facility located near Santa Soledad Parish in Kagman. Contact numbers at the new facility are:

- 670-256-2550/1 (phone)
- 670-256-2540 (fax)

The new facility will be open to address public concerns from 7:30am to 4:30pm daily. For more information, contact the Division of Youth Services main office at 670-664-2550.

Open audition for male, female actors

The Friends of the Arts is inviting all those who love a good mystery to audition for "To Wake the Dead," an upcoming Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre production.

Auditions will be held on Friday, Jan. 16, from 5pm to 7pm; Saturday, Jan. 17, from 2pm to 4pm; and Sunday, Jan. 18, from 4pm to 6pm at the Marianas High School Drama Studio, Building D, Rm. 101.

The cast of 11 includes six male and five female roles. Adults and older teens are encouraged to try out!

In "To Wake the Dead,"

supernatural mystery writer Fred Finnegan has died under unusual circumstances and his friends have gathered at his Irish wake to pay tribute. The clues to his demise gradually come to light as even Fred becomes involved in trying to determine "whodunit."

For more information, call Melody Actouka at 235-1320.

UP Alumni Association meeting set

The University of the Philippines Alumni Association will have a meeting at 6:30pm on Saturday, Jan. 17. This will be held at the Filipino Workers Rescue Center at the first floor of the Nauru building.

The UPAA president, Concepcion Lomibao-Van Der Veen, is urging all officers and members to attend. The agenda will be: 1) Preparation of a timeline of activities for the year; 2) Fund-raising activities to support the UPAA's Education-oriented projects; and 3) Ideas on how to assist in recognizing and supporting gifted and talented students.

Registration of new members is still open. The annual membership fee is \$25. For more information, contact: Marylou Villagomez -483-9818 or 235-1513 (5:30-7pm); Auralou Sabangan, 286-2547 (9am-5:30pm) and David Quichocho Maratita-433-4321 cell 287-1012 email dqmaratita@yahoo.com.

Business

SGMA asks Legislature’s support

The Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association is seeking audience with the 14th Legislature to inform its presiding offices and members on the current state of the industry.

“There are definite things that can and should be done to protect our companies which provide jobs, income, taxes and sales to support service companies and their employees here in Saipan. This is our midnight hour, and we respectfully request to be heard for decisive action now,” said SGMA chairman James Lin.

SGMA executive director Richard Pierce has sent letters to House Speaker Benigno R. Fitiaf and Senate President Joaquin G. Adriano, requesting for an audience to present SGMA’s newest version and update its report entitled, “The State of the Saipan Garment Industry.”

“As the largest single source of revenue to the CNMI, we offer to inform and educate our elected leaders on what we feel they should understand before making their best possible decisions with respect to our industry and how it could affect the economy as a whole”, Pierce stated in his letters to Fitiaf and Adriano.

SGMA has requested a joint session where time would be included for questions and answers by the newly sworn-in members of the 14th Legislature.

The association had presented similar industry oversight sessions in the past.

The presentation would include, by PowerPoint presentation, the Saipan garment industry’s evolution and history, its economic contributions to the government and community, its local spending habits, its clients, SGMA’s Code of Conduct and monitoring, future challenges with global quota elimination and how the CNMI could assist the industry to remain competitive and of benefit to the CNMI.



Lin Pierce



Fitiaf Adriano

Tenorio named to MU-CIEN’s board

Juan C. Tenorio, P.E., consulting engineer, has been appointed to be member of the Industrial Advisory Board for the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, College of Engineering at Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Marquette is a Catholic, Jesuit university, with a total enrollment of over 11,000 students. The College of Engineering has over 2,000 students, and offers Bachelors, Masters, and Doctorate degrees in Civil and Environmental engineering, Electrical and Computer engineering, Mechanical and Industrial engineering, and Biomedical engineering. CIEN has a total enrollment of over 300 students. There are over 60 alumni on Guam and Saipan.

Tenorio obtained a Bachelor of Civil Engineering from Marquette in 1962. He has been in private practice on Guam and Micronesia since 1971. He retired as a colonel, Corps of Engineers, of the U.S. Army Reserve.

mitsubishi
cmyk

Fed reports economy gathering strength

By JEANNINE AVERSA
AP WRITER

A batch of new economic reports Wednesday provided fresh evidence that the U.S. economy is continuing to gain momentum, with an unexpectedly sharp narrowing of the trade deficit and a strengthening of business activity in most parts of the country as the new year began.

The Federal Reserve reported in a nationwide survey that the economy continued to rebound from late November to the early part of this year, with retailers reporting a boost from a late surge in holiday shopping and even growing signs that the nation's battered manufacturing

sector was beginning to pull out of its steep nosedive.

The Fed survey, compiled from reports from the Fed's 12 regional banks, said "the nation's economy has continued to strengthen" into the early part of January, with gains in such areas as auto and home sales and hints that rising orders were prompting manufacturers to begin rehiring some of the 2.8 million factory workers laid off over the past 3 1/2 years.

In another encouraging sign, the Commerce Department said Wednesday that the nation's trade deficit posted a surprising decline to \$38 billion in November, down 8.6 percent from the October deficit and the smallest imbalance in 13 months.

The narrowing deficit reflected a 2.9 percent jump in exports to \$90.6 billion, led by a surge in sales of civilian aircraft and soybeans and other farm products. Imports, which had hit a record high the previous month, dipped 0.8 percent to \$128.6 billion in November.

Analysts credited stronger global economic growth and the falling value of the dollar against other currencies for the revival of U.S. exports and said the rebound was a major factor in their forecasts for a revival in manufacturing in the coming year.

"It's nice when economics actually works," said Joel Naroff, head of a Holland, Pa.,

economic forecasting firm. "The weaker dollar appears to be doing what it is supposed to do: increase exports, lower imports and narrow the trade deficits."

A third report Wednesday showed that the 13.5 percent drop in the dollar against other major currencies over the past year had not triggered one unwelcome side effect, rising inflation. A falling dollar makes U.S. exports cheaper on global markets but also raises the costs of imports to American consumers.

The Labor Department reported, however, that inflation at the wholesale level rose just 0.3 percent in December, reflecting a jump in energy prices. The Producer Price Index

of wholesale prices had fallen by 0.3 percent in November.

Outside of the volatile energy and food sectors, the closely watched core inflation rate fell by 0.1 percent in December, matching the decline in November. It was only the third time since 1974 that the core inflation rate had posted consecutive monthly declines.

For the year, wholesale prices were up 4 percent, the biggest gain since 1990 and a reflection of the gains in energy prices. The core inflation rate outside of food and energy was up a much more benign 1 percent.

The new Fed survey will form the basis for discussion when central bank policy-makers hold their first meeting of 2004 on Jan. 27-28. Most analysts believe the Fed will continue to leave interest rates unchanged at a 45-year low of 1 percent for much of this year, hoping to provide a strong foundation for a sustained economic rebound in 2004.

David Rosenberg, senior economist at Merrill Lynch in New York, said Wednesday's inflation report supported his view that "the Fed remains on hold for all of 2004."

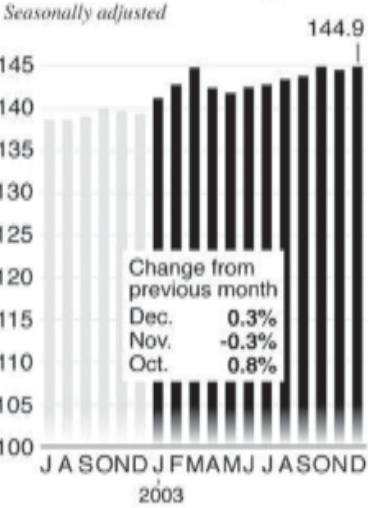
The Fed's regional survey said the strongest retail sales were reported by the San Francisco region, followed by solid gains in the Boston, Philadelphia, St. Louis and Kan-

sas City districts.

Nearly all Fed districts reported increases in manufacturing activity in December and several noted that factory employment edged up a bit as well. This upturn has yet to register on the national unemployment figures,

Producer prices

Here is a look at the Producer Price Index of finished goods.



Chair, as in cherished

By AMY JOYCE
THE WASHINGTON POST

When Denise Miller changed offices a month ago, she left her computer, filing cabinets and desk in the old office. She even left important files there for a while. The one thing she immediately took with her? The thing that meant the most, that she just couldn't be without?

Her desk chair.
"You spend eight hours a day in your chair. It's like a security blanket," she explained.

Miller, who works in corporate public relations at American Management Systems in Fairfax, Va., wants her own chair. Needs her own chair. Will never part with her chair until it is in a heap of metal and fabric on the floor. Because it's hers.

Sound familiar?
The folks at Steelcase Inc., the office-furniture giant, think so. So much so that they designed a chair last year with a slot on the back in which to slip the sitter's business card, a kind of insurance that the office-chair vultures will be a little less apt to roll off with someone's favorite seat. The "Let's B" chair started to sell last summer in the United States, and it has been popular, said Ken Tamelig, group leader for seating (yes, really) at Steelcase.

Steelcase knows a lot about chairs and office workers. The company has spent many hours in offices, observing what we want and like and need from our chairs. During those visits, Steelcase employees have seen office dwellers scratch their names into chairs, hang pieces of identifying clothing over them and, in one case, chain a chair to a desk to make sure no one took it. "I know a guy who changed five jobs within the company and took his chair with him, state to state," Tamelig said.

It's not just a selfish, materialistic thing, this attachment to our own chairs. There are many people these days who are, as Tamelig called it, "working injured." Carpal tunnel syndrome, back problems and the like are

common in these days of sedentary office life. So workers need something contoured to fit them and their office aches and pains. And, as many of us know, it is hard to find that perfect fit. Hence, our fanaticism.

Cancer researcher Nina Constantino keeps her sweater draped over her chair at her Frederick, Md., lab. Yes, the building is cold. But also, the sweater marks it as hers. No one has dared to take the chair. "It's either the sweater, or I've instilled the fear of God in everyone," she said.

After his chair was "stolen," Kevin Barth, a programmer analyst at ORC-Macro International Inc. in Bethesda, Md., reported it. Got a replacement. That was stolen, too. So he grabbed a chair from an empty office until he bought for himself "one of those ergonomic leather beasts from Staples."

"It's different (from the regular office chairs), so it's not going anywhere," he says now.

Chris Condayan, director of public relations for the National Mental Health Association in Alexandria, Va., will never forget when he and his chair were temporarily parted. The organization moved offices, and although his chair had his name on it, it was nowhere to be found in the new space. "It took me a nice long search and some false accusations before I eventually found it in some storeroom," he said. His name label had fallen off, and he "just wasn't satisfied with the replacement." He and his chair have now been together six years—minus a day.

Chairs are expensive—the Leap chair by Steelcase runs between \$450 and \$850, and the Let's B chair is about \$379. Herman Miller's Aeron chairs can cost \$650 or more. And when a company buys its employees a piece of expensive comfort, it shows management cares, goes the thinking. However, it also says: Here, sit and spend more time at the computer, because now you can.

Need protection from your boss?

By KENNETH BREDEMEIER
THE WASHINGTON POST

Q. My boss recently sent me an e-mail that detailed my "performance issues" and informed me that if I did not improve, my contract would not be renewed. He is documenting every single mistake I make while ignoring all the good things I do. I've been an excellent performer at my previous jobs, and I am trying to do my best to perform well here despite many obstacles. He has driven out two employees before me, and office gossip is that I am next. I don't have anyone at his level or above I can go to for help, and it looks like I must talk to our human resources

representative, whom I hardly know. What can HR do for me, if anything, and how can I work with them to get some protection from my boss? Also, how do I deal with this "performance issues" memo, which I suspect was written to pave my way out the door?

A. Some workers are wary of taking employment disputes to the human resources department, figuring that it is another arm of management and will automatically side with the boss. But Deborah Keary, who regularly answers questions about personnel issues for the Society for Human Resource Management in Alexandria, Va., said that at most companies, workers can expect

the HR department to act as an unbiased third party.

In this case, she said, "They should look at all the facts, find out what the performance issues are, try to collect data and then act as a mediator. HR might already be looking at this boss if he's already run off two employees. They should be tracking turnover."

Conversely, Keary said that the worker has to realize that HR could conclude that his job performance was lacking and that the boss' assessment was accurate. Keary said the worker should "definitely respond to that performance issues memo" in writing and "cite the positive things he's done. He ought to outline the obstacles he's faced, the

things outside his control, in case the boss does not know. Then he ought to send it to the boss, send a copy to HR and keep a copy."

Aside from this advice, however, Keary said that workers should acknowledge that when their fate comes down to dueling memos, "it's a bad state of affairs."

"I question whether he sees much of a future" at this company, she said.

The worker ought to consider "what terms you might want to resign on," she said, such as securing a promise that the firm will offer no opinion on his performance, only telling would-be employers basic information about his dates of employment, positions held and possibly his last salary.

Former Enron exec gets 10 years

Andrew Fastow, chief architect of the shady, off-the-books deals that brought down Enron, pleaded guilty along with his wife Wednesday in a deal that could take prosecutors to the top of the corporate ladder at the scandal-ridden company.

The former finance chief agreed to a 10-year prison sentence and will help

prosecutors build a case against the executives who once occupied the most opulent offices on the company's top floor: former chairman Kenneth Lay and former CEO Jeffrey Skilling.

Fastow's wife, Lea, pleaded guilty to a tax charge related to Enron's ill-gotten gains. Lea Fastow, 42, was Enron's assistant treasurer. **(AP)**

townhouse
+blue

Optimism pushes stocks higher

By MICHAEL J. MARTINEZ
AP BUSINESS WRITER

Investors had a surge of optimism Wednesday ahead of the first major fourth-quarter earnings reports, sending stocks sharply higher and carrying the Dow Jones industrial average up more than 110 points.

During the regular session, the Dow closed up 111.19, or 1.1 percent, at 10,538.37, more than making up for a 58-point drop on Tuesday. Broader stock indicators also closed higher. The Nasdaq composite index was up 14.69, or 0.7 percent, at 2,111.13. The Standard & Poor's 500 index was up 9.09, or 0.8 percent, at 1,130.31.

Wall Street managed to shake its nervousness from earlier in the week, investing heavily in blue chips and tech stocks in the hope that Intel Corp. and other major firms would come through with positive earnings results after the close of trading. Intel did easily beat earnings projections, but its first-quarter outlook appeared to disappoint the market, and it and other high-tech stocks fell in after-hours trading and raised the possibility of more selling on Thursday.

Analysts said the market was looking to Intel in particular to see if Wednesday's gains could be sustained. But while the company posted earnings 8 cents

per share above analysts' estimates and boasted record quarterly revenues, its first-quarter revenue forecast of \$7.9 billion to \$8.5 billion apparently fell short of what Wall Street was looking for.

It wasn't surprising that investors, concerned about the strength of the economic recovery and its effect on company earnings, would look closely at quarterly and full-year forecasts.

"The quarterly outlook seems fine, but the markets focus on the future," said Jay Suskind, head trader at Ryan Beck & Co.

Earlier in the day, Delta Air Lines disappointed Wall Street with higher-than-expected losses

despite a year of cost-cutting measures. Nonetheless, Delta rose 1 cent to \$12.15.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners 9 to 5 on the New York Stock Exchange. Consolidated volume on the floor of the Big Board came to 2.05 billion shares in moderate trading, down from 2.06 billion in the previous session.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies closed up 4.96, or 0.8 percent, at 586.12.

Overseas, Japan's Nikkei stock average closed up 0.1 percent, Britain's FTSE 100 was up 0.5 percent, France's CAC-40 index closed 1.0 percent higher and Germany's Xetra DAX rose 1.5 percent.

Apple earnings rise on strong iPod sales

By MAY WONG
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

Strong holiday sales of portable notebook computers and the iPod music player helped Apple Computer Inc.'s first-quarter results easily beat Wall Street expectations Wednesday.

For the three months ended Dec. 27, Cupertino, Calif.-based Apple said it earned \$63 million, or 17 cents per share, compared with a net loss of \$8 million, or 2 cents per share, in the same period last year.

Revenue for the quarter reached a four-year high of \$2 billion, up 36 percent from the year-ago quarter.

Analysts surveyed by Thomson First Call had projected earnings of 15 cents a share on revenue of \$1.9 billion.

"It was an outstanding quarter for Apple," said chief executive Steve Jobs.

During the quarter, Apple said it shipped 829,000 Macintosh computers, up 12 percent from a year ago. Sales of iPod players leaped 235 percent to 733,000.

Before it released earnings, Apple shares rose 8 cents to close at \$24.20 on the Nasdaq Stock Market. In the extended session, shares were down \$1.31, or 5.4 percent, to \$22.89.

Apple introduced the iPod in October 2001, igniting a category of portable music players with hard drives. Though it was bulkier than flash-based players, the pocket-sized iPod could hold hundreds more songs—about 1,000 songs—with its 5-gigabyte drive. The latest models are sleeker and have as much as 40 gigabytes of storage.

Sales of iPods gained momentum after Apple introduced its pay-per-download iTunes online music store last year, first for Mac computers then for Windows-based PCs starting in the fall. Songs purchased from the online store can be burned onto CDs, played on up to three computers but are transferable only to the iPod.

Apple's music success has drawn dozens of rivals into the digital music arena, and some companies are partnering with Apple to take advantage of its market-leading position.

Hewlett-Packard Co. and Apple last week announced a surprising alliance in which HP will sell iPod players, rebranded under the HP name and signature blue hue. Under the deal, HP will also pre-install Apple's jukebox software with every HP computer beginning in the summer.

fun & games
+blue

SEC proposes code for investment firms

By MARCY GORDON
AP BUSINESS WRITER

Federal regulators responded to the mutual fund scandal with proposals Wednesday that would require ethics codes for fund-managing investment firms and would bolster the independence of fund board chairmen and directors.

At the same time, the Securities and Exchange Commission was widening its fund investigation by looking into several cases in which brokerage firms steered clients toward certain funds in exchange for payments—inadequately disclosed—from those fund companies.

As part of the proposals put out for public comment Wednesday, the agency would require that fund investors get more information about such arrangements, even before they buy funds.

The SEC's inspection of brokerage houses that sell mutual funds has uncovered widespread payments to the brokerages from the firms that manage funds, in return for favorable treatment of specific funds.

Agency officials say they are concerned that fund investors, who represent half of all U.S. households, are not being told about the potential conflicts of interest that such arrangements

can bring. Investors can be hurt by that concealment, as well as by being directed into higher-cost or worse performing funds, the officials maintain.

Investors "deserve to know how much their broker stands to benefit from their purchase of a particular fund," the SEC chairman, William Donaldson, said at a public meeting.

The SEC has come under pressure to act from state regulators, especially New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, who began the investigation of mutual fund trading abuses in September, has criticized the federal agency. He and the SEC have quarreled over whether regu-

lators should force mutual fund companies to cut excessive fees as part of legal settlements.

Donaldson told reporters that the cleanup of the \$7 trillion fund industry cannot wait for Congress to act. The House passed overhaul legislation in November nearly unanimously; the Senate is expected to act on its own version of such proposals this year.

"We have got to move as swiftly as we can," Donaldson said.

The agency's actions Wednesday, in a series of votes by the five SEC commissioners, built on its tentative approval last month of a rule imposing a cutoff of 4 p.m. Eastern time for pricing of fund shares to stem illegal

after-hours trading. The proposals could become final after the SEC gathers public comment.

The SEC proposed the ethics codes for investment advisers, which would require employees of investment advisory firms to report their personal trading—including in any mutual funds managed by their firms.

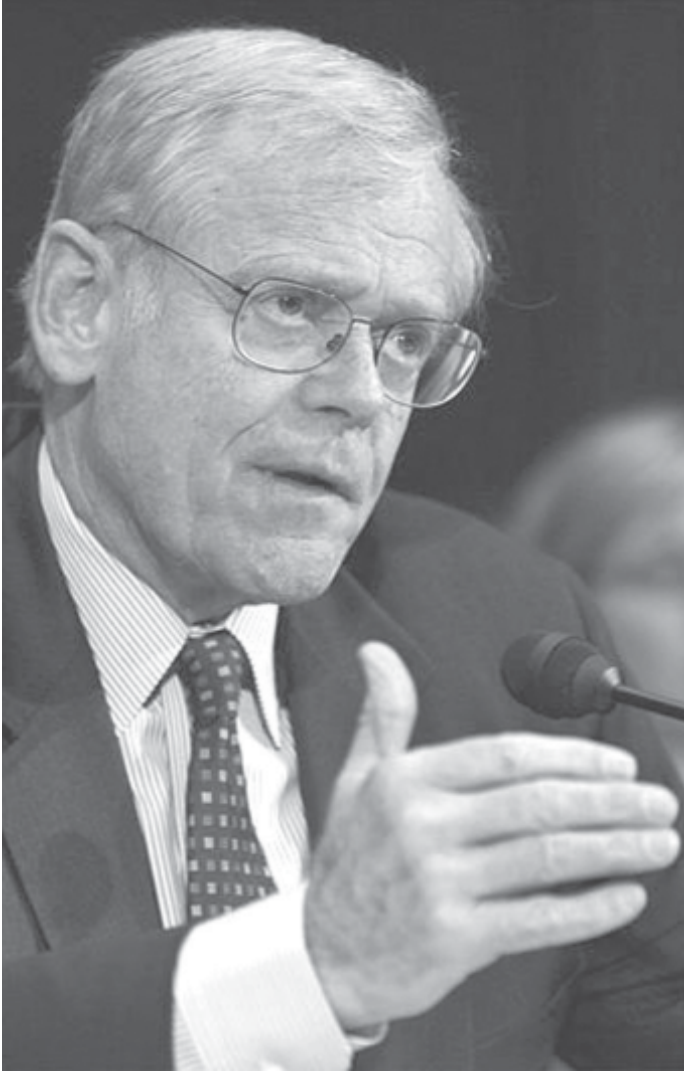
Investment advisers are required by law to protect the interests of their clients, the mutual funds they manage, in what is called a fiduciary relationship.

In one of the biggest mutual fund cases, investment adviser Alliance Capital Management last month agreed to a \$600 million penalty to resolve

regulators' allegations of improper fund trading and violating its fiduciary duty.

The SEC proposals also include requirements that board chairmen of fund companies be independent from the companies managing the funds, and that three-quarters of the directors on a fund company board also be independent, compared with half now.

The proposal for independent chairmen, which represents a change in the SEC's earlier position, is fiercely opposed by the mutual fund industry. At the meeting, one commissioner, Cynthia Glassman, suggested it could give investors "a false sense of confidence."



William Donaldson, chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, is shown in Washington in this April 10, 2003 file photo.

J.P. Morgan Chase buying Bank One

J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. and Bank One Corp. announced Wednesday that they are merging in a deal that will create the second-largest U.S. banking company after Citigroup.

The merged company, to be based in New York, will have assets of \$1.1 trillion with 2,300 branches in 17 states, the two banks said in an announcement after the stock market closed.

Only Citigroup, with assets of about \$1.19 trillion and operations in more than 100 countries, would be bigger if the deal is approved.

The agreement was una-

nimously approved by the boards of directors of both companies, J.P. Morgan Chase and Bank One said in their joint announcement.

J.P. Morgan Chase's William B. Harrison, 60, will be chairman and chief executive officer, while Bank One CEO James Dimon will be president and chief operating officer. The 47-year-old Dimon would succeed Harrison as CEO in 2006, with Harrison continuing to serve as chairman.

Initial reports of the deal had sent Bank One shares soaring in after-hours trading. (AP)

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Bush outlines plan for 2015 moon landing

By PAUL RECER
AP SCIENCE WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush beckoned the nation “forward into the universe” on Wednesday, outlining a costly new effort to return Americans to the moon as early as 2015 and use it as a waystation to Mars and beyond.

Bush said he envisioned “a new foothold on the moon...and new journeys to the world beyond our own,” underscoring a renewed commitment to manned spaceflight less than a year after the loss of the space shuttle Columbia and a crew of seven.

In an election-year speech at NASA headquarters a few blocks from the White House, Bush said the United States would complete its obligations to the International Space Station by 2010 and retire the aging space shuttle fleet at about the same time. In its place, he called for development of a new Crew Exploratory Vehicle, capable of carrying astronauts to the space station and the moon.

Bush said early financing would total \$12 billion for exploration over the next five years, only \$1 billion of it in new funds. That meant that even if he wins a second term in office, his successors in the Oval Office would be responsible for finding the rest of the money for a program likely to run into the hundreds of billions of dollars.

The space agency arranged a splashy, high-tech entrance for the president, who strode to the front of a giant video screen beaming an image of Michael Foale, aboard the space station 240 miles above the earth.

“I know that I’m just one chapter in an ongoing story of discovery,” said Foale, making his sixth trip into earth orbit. He said he was also “certain that NASA’s journey is just beginning...”

Bush said the same, delivering a vote of confidence in Sean O’Keefe, the agency’s administrator at the time of the Columbia breakup and the months since.

“It’s time for America to take the next step” in space exploration, said Bush, who spoke 32 years after the American Apollo program last landed astronauts on the moon. He drew applause from NASA employees when he outlined a timetable that would put the first human trip to Mars well into the century. Robotic craft would be sent there first, he said, but exploration wouldn’t end there.

“We need to see and examine and touch for ourselves, and only human beings are capable of adapting to the inevitable uncertainties posed by space flight,” the president said.

“Mankind is drawn to the heavens for the same reason we were once drawn to unknown lands and across the open sea,” Bush said “We choose to explore space because doing so improves our



lives and lifts our national spirit. So let us continue the journey.”

The nation’s manned space program drew its first impetus from Cold War competition with the former Soviet Union, and began with a challenge from President John F. Kennedy in 1961.

Bush made no mention of Kennedy, but his remarks underscored the change in global politics. “The vision I outline today is a journey, not a race,” he said.

An extended human presence on the moon “will enable astronauts to develop new technologies and harness the moon’s abundant resources to allow manned exploration of more challenging environments,” the White House said in a prepared statement released before Bush spoke.

The moon has one-sixth the gravitational field of Earth, so moon-based aircraft could launch from there more cheaply.

Bush proposed a modest increase in spending for the new venture—\$1 billion in new spending over five years. Bush would also shift \$11 billion in federal money from other NASA programs to make way for the program.

Probes, landers and other unmanned spacecraft would explore the lunar surface beginning no later than 2008 to research and prepare for future human exploration.

NASA would also develop and build the new “Crew Exploration Vehicle” to ferry people first to the International Space Station after the shuttles are retired, and then to the moon, no later than 2015.

At the start of an election year, the White House cast the next envisioned generation of space travel as affordable and useful to average Americans who might be skeptical about such a mission at a time of record budget deficits.

An administration’s fact sheet offered a list of benefits from previous space missions: “Space exploration has yielded advances in communications, weather forecasting, electronics and countless other fields,” the White House said. Examples included CAT scanners, MRIs, kidney dialysis machines, programmable heart pacemakers, satellite communications advances.

Bush also formed a new panel, the Commission on the Implementation of U.S. Space Exploration Policy, to advise NASA on the implementation of his ideas. Pete Aldridge, a former Air Force Secretary, was named to lead the effort.

President Bush announces his ambition to build a space station on the moon and eventually send astronauts to Mars, during a speech at NASA Headquarters in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2004.

AP

Connecticut committee to investigate Gov. Rowland

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—Connecticut lawmakers took the first step Wednesday toward the possible impeachment of Gov. John G. Rowland, announcing they would form a bipartisan committee to investigate his conduct.

Several lawmakers called it a “sad day” for the state, which has been enveloped by the fast-moving scandal for more than a month. No governor in Connecticut history has been impeached.

Rowland has come under fire for accepting gifts and free work on his vacation cottage from politically connected friends, state employees and a state contractor, and for lying about it. He has said he never returned the favors, and he has apologized repeatedly for lying about the renovations.

House Speaker Moira Lyons, a Democrat, announced the bipartisan House inquiry committee after meeting with the three-term Republican governor.

“It is the most difficult decision that I’ve had to make,” she said.

The governor commended the legislature for “setting up this very fair and deliberative process.” He added: I want the people of this state to know something: I will continue to do this job, to the best of my abilities, each and every day.”

Rowland had asked legislators not to hold impeachment hearings, warning it would create a partisan rift within the legislature. But he did an about-face Tuesday and said he would endorse a process that was fair.

Rowland is under federal investigation and has been under mounting pressure to resign. Numerous public officials, including Republican U.S. Reps. Rob Simmons and Chris Shays, have called on Rowland to step down, but the governor has pledged to finish the three years left in his term.

The Democrat-controlled House will convene a special session next week to set up the committee. Lyons said it will probably include five Democrats and five Republicans who will decide the scope of their investigation.

House Minority Leader Robert Ward said he agrees the committee is an appropriate next step to determine whether Rowland’s transgressions rise to the level of impeachment.

“Certainly as a Republican leader, we take no pleasure in this,” he said. “It is certainly very grave to even have the conversation about removing a public official from office.”

If the House votes to impeach, the case will be sent to the Senate for a trial. A two-thirds majority in the Senate would be required to remove Rowland from office. The Senate has 21 Democrats and 15 Republicans.

Those providing gifts to Rowland included a former aide who has pleaded guilty to federal charges he took bribes to steer state contracts. Rowland also accepted work on his cottage from a contractor at the center of the federal corruption probe of Rowland’s administration.

Rowland initially insisted that he paid for the work on his summer home.

Some lawmakers want the committee to focus only on the governor’s lies or the underpinnings of the federal corruption investigation. Others want any committee to consider Rowland’s past ethical problems.

Last summer, Rowland agreed to pay about \$9,000 to settle an ethics investigation into discounted vacation stays at homes belonging to people who did business with the state. He also paid \$6,000 to settle an Elections Enforcement Commission complaint to cover personal charges he made to a state GOP credit card.

Braun to drop bid for presidency

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Former Illinois Sen. Carol Moseley Braun, whose presidential campaign never got off the ground, will drop out of the race and endorse front-runner Howard Dean, campaign officials said Wednesday.

Officials close to the Dean campaign confirmed that they expected Braun to officially endorse the former Vermont governor Thursday in Iowa. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity.

Dean campaign officials declined comment.

The officials said Braun approached Dean after a recent debate and told him she was considering leaving the race and backing him.

One of two black candidates in the race, Braun is giving Dean her endorsement even as he has faced questions about his record on race issues, including his lack of minority Cabinet members during his five terms as Vermont governor.

Braun never broke out of single digits in national surveys, didn’t qualify for several state ballots and ran up thousand of dollars in campaign debt. Even her own campaign manager, Patricia Ireland, had said publicly there was no way Braun could win the nomination.

She leaves the race after making no impact on it, except for some bright moments in the presidential debates.



Braun

crm

Cheerleader dies after balcony fall

KAANAPALI, Hawaii (AP)—A high school cheerleader on a dream trip to Hawaii to perform at a college football all-star game plunged naked to her death from a ninth-floor hotel balcony. Two men were arrested on suspicion of murder and later released.

On a 9-degree morning thousands of miles away, a New Jersey suburb grieved Wednesday for 18-year-old Lauren Crossan as it waited for answers about her mysterious death.

"I can't even describe how much it hurts," said Erica Bauerlein, a senior from Randolph, N.J., who had known Lauren since both were 3 years old. "People were breaking down in school. I've never seen anything so somber since 9-11. The hallways were so quiet."

Crossan's body was found Monday morning by a hotel guest only hours after she had checked into the Hyatt Regency Maui Resort & Spa.

On Tuesday, police in Hawaii arrested two men on suspicion of second-degree murder, said Lt. Tivoli Faaumu. Donald L. Devorss and Erik B. Larson, both of Folsom, Calif., who were registered to the room from which Crossan fell, were released Wednesday pending investigation, according to a police records. They had not been charged.

Devorss answered a telephone call to his hotel room but said he had no comment and hung up. A subsequent call went unanswered.

The men, ages 19 and 20, told police that Crossan was in their room when they fell asleep early Monday. Her clothes and



AP
Lauren Crossan, a senior and cheerleader at Randolph, N.J., High School, is shown in the school's 2003 yearbook.

personal belongings were still in the room when police arrived to question them, but the men said they did not know what happened to her, Faaumu said.

A chaperone on the trip received a call from Crossan at about 1:30 a.m. Monday saying she was OK and would be returning to her room, Faaumu said. When she did not show up, the others went to look for her but could not find her, he said.

Carson Tani, deputy prosecuting attorney for Maui County, said the investigation could take several weeks.

Crossan was captain of the cheerleading competition squad at Randolph High School, about 30 miles west of New York City in an affluent area of New Jersey.

Crossan was one of three

Randolph seniors selected by the National Cheerleaders Association to perform with nearly 600 other cheerleaders from across the country at the halftime show of the Hula Bowl.

The cheerleaders association is part of The National Spirit Group, of Dallas, which operates camps and competitions and sells cheerleading-related merchandise.

The girls raised money for the trip by selling candy and soliciting sponsorships from local businesses.

Crossan was a standout athlete, playing on the school softball team as a freshman and sophomore, and cheerleading for the wrestling, basketball and football teams. She also served as statistician for the basketball team.

Known as an exceptionally strong girl, Crossan was always front and center when the squad performed. She usually was a "base," a cheerleader responsible for catching flying teammates during jumps and stunts.

"She was full of life, vivacious, certainly not a wallflower, and was loved and respected by every member of our squad," said her cheerleading coach, Sherry Tremper.

Standing outside the high school on a frigid afternoon, ice crystals forming in her still-damp dark brown hair, classmate Courtney Burbridge tried to remember how Crossan lived instead of how she died.

"She was always so happy, always smiling, always happy to see people," Burbridge said. "She was just a great person. We're all still in shock over this."

Judge nixes dismissing Peterson charges

MODESTO, Calif. (AP)—Double murder charges will stand against Scott Peterson in the killings of his pregnant wife and unborn son, a judge ruled Wednesday, rejecting a defense motion to dismiss the charges.

Stanislaus County Superior Court Judge Marie Silveira denied the motion to toss out the charges on defense claims that prosecutors did not present enough evidence of a crime during a preliminary hearing last year.

Defense lawyer Mark Geragos said evidence from the 11 days of testimony showed that Laci Peterson was abducted and that her husband could not have killed her. Prosecutors said that claim was ridiculous.

Peterson, 31, is charged with two counts of murder that could bring the death penalty. Laci Peterson was eight months

pregnant when she vanished from her Modesto home on Christmas Eve 2002. The remains of her body and the fetus she was carrying washed ashore along San Francisco Bay in April two miles from where Scott Peterson said he was fishing when she disappeared.

During the hearing, the judge also ordered a university professor who oversaw a student survey of potential jurors to appear in court Tuesday at a hearing to decide where the trial is moved.

The survey by sociology professor Stephen Schoenthaler at California State University, Stanislaus has since come under fire after several students told The Modesto Bee they fabricated results.

In ruling to move the trial out of Modesto because of extensive news coverage, Judge Al

Girolami cited the survey that found jurors were less biased in the San Francisco area and Southern California.

Prosecutors who argued unsuccessfully to keep the case in Modesto subpoenaed Schoenthaler on Wednesday and they could ask Girolami to reconsider his decision to move the trial.

Silveira was chosen to hear the defense motion to dismiss the charges because Girolami, who is overseeing the case, ruled in November that there was enough evidence to go to trial.

The trial is scheduled for Jan. 26, but it could be postponed if it's moved.

Alameda, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Orange counties have said they have available courtrooms and staff to hold the trial. Girolami said he wants to keep the case in Northern California.

CJPA

Planes still have many dangerous objects

WASHINGTON (AP)—Commercial pilot Fred Bates could not board the twin-engine jet he was about to fly from Dallas to Raleigh-Durham, N.C., until he passed through a metal detector. Airport screeners had to make sure he was not carrying a pen knife, box cutter or scissors. Yet once aboard, he saw that an elderly passenger was holding a cane—potentially lethal weapon. From knitting needles to ball point pens, passengers still are allowed to bring on all kinds of potential weapons, Bates said. There are even more things that can be found inside many commercial airliners—mirrors, ice picks, metal silverware—

that could help a terrorist. While the government has made changes aimed at tightening aviation security, some experts believe those efforts have focused too much on what passengers are trying to take on board. Michael Boyd, an airline industry analyst with the Boyd Group in Evergreen, Colo., said nearly anything from shoelaces to hangers could be dangerous. “We’re fixated on pointy objects,” Boyd said. “The whole idea is, we have to identify where the risks are. They are at more than the screening checkpoints.” The Transportation Security Administration, which took over aviation security after the Sept.

11 attacks, has spent billions of dollars to hire screeners and upgrade equipment. But Boyd said little has been done to ensure terrorists cannot get near a plane through an airport’s back doors. Airport workers such as fuelers, mechanics and caterers need to be screened for weapons before they are allowed near a plane, he said. A closer eye needs to be kept on air cargo facilities. Perimeters need to be more secure. Just last week, the government renewed its warning that the al-Qaida network continues to show interest in using commercial planes to mount an attack. The federal agency acknowledges it cannot keep every possible weapon off an airplane,

so it has put in place many levels of security, amounting to what it says is a reasonable defense against terrorism: thousands of air marshals, reinforced cockpit doors, electronic screening of checked baggage for explosives, bomb-sniffing dogs to search airplanes. “There are a million different scenarios that we could drum up or surmise,” agency spokeswoman Yolanda Clark said. “The answer is in the layers of security. What can you do with a butter knife when you’ve got a reinforced cockpit door?” Still, the vast majority of the agency’s aviation dollars pays for screening passengers and their bags. This year, roughly half of

its \$3.7 billion budget for aviation security is to be spent on passenger screening. An additional \$1.3 billion is for baggage screening. Far less goes toward checking cargo carried on commercial planes, training pilots to carry weapons in the cockpit or for other security efforts. Bates, who is on the pilots’ Committee for the Armed Defense of the Cockpit, wants the agency to train and arm more pilots faster than the current pace of about 50 a week. He estimates 1,000 pilots are now allowed to carry weapons. The agency has said it soon will double its classes. Theodore Postol, a professor of science, technology and national security at the

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said taking dangerous objects away from passengers does make it harder for terrorists to commandeer planes. But Postol said planes remain an inviting target and the government should think about how planes can be built so terrorists cannot gain control. Biometric devices, for example, could be attached to the aircraft control system so only authorized people could fly planes. James Carafano, a homeland security expert with the conservative think tank Heritage Foundation, said the post-Sept. 11 reality is that passengers and pilots will not let terrorists take control of an aircraft again.

Ga. dad, son killed by intruder at home

LILBURN, Ga. (AP)—A high school coach and his teenage son were killed in their home as they tried to fight off an intruder, who was later shot to death by police. Dan Huggins, a police spokesman, said the suspect was chased into a wooded area, where he shot a police dog. Officers returned fire, hitting him several times. The suspect died at Gwinnett Medical Center, Huggins said. The dog was expected to survive. Bill Venable, 55, head wrestling coach and a special education teacher at Tucker High School, and his son, Bill Venable Jr., a senior at the school, struggled with the attacker before they were shot to death late Tuesday, Huggins said. The attacker was believed to have earlier broken into another

home about two miles away, where he stole a car. Huggins said the man is believed to have chosen the homes at random. Venable’s wife, Susan, was not hurt, said neighbor Delores Hendrix. The suspect had not been identified Wednesday afternoon, Huggins said. Tucker High School planned a moment of silence to remember the Venables, said Principal Scott Butler. “It’s hard to go in there right now because everyone is crying,” junior Erica Ulmer said Wednesday. The elder Venable had worked at the school for 16 years and also was an assistant coach on the football team. The younger Venable played on the team and planned to attend Auburn University in Alabama.

Blind must be able to vote alone in Fla.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—Blind and physically impaired voters must be provided with voting machines that have an audio system that will let them vote without assistance, a federal judge said Wednesday. Senior U.S. District Judge Wayne Alley said in a tentative ruling that the Duval County supervisor of elections and the Florida Secretary of State’s Office were violating the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act by not providing such machines. Alley told the county and the state they have four months to get voting equipment with an audio capability and have it ready by the August 2004 primary. If it can’t be done with current machines, the county will have to buy new ones, the judge said. He gave each side 10 days to reply to his tentative ruling,

but indicated he would make it permanent. Lawyers for Duval County promised to appeal a final order. They estimated that compliance could cost the county between \$1 million and \$6 million. Visually and physically impaired voters sued county Supervisor of Elections John Stafford in 2001 after he bought optical scan equipment from Diebold. Disabled voters said Stafford should have bought a touch screen system with voice capabilities to allow them to vote without help. At least 30 of Florida’s 67 counties use optical scan equipment that do not have audio capability, but it wasn’t known Wednesday if the Duval case would affect the other counties, said Jenny Nash, a spokeswoman for the Secretary of State’s office. Only 15 Florida counties have voting systems with audio capability, Nash said.

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Bush urges immigration policy overhaul

By JENNIFER LOVEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Promoting a plan that could brighten

his election-year prospects with Hispanic voters, President Bush on Wednesday proposed legal status—at least temporarily—for millions of illegal immigrants

working in the United States.

But the sweeping policy overhaul, offered with few specifics, also angered many in the president’s conservative Republican base of support and drew criticism from advocacy groups who questioned whether it would do much to help immigrants.

Democrats were united in calling the plan a political ploy that offers a false promise of legitimacy for the undocumented workers.

Decrying a system that now has “millions of hardworking men and women condemned to fear and insecurity in a massive undocumented economy,” Bush urged Congress to approve a

temporary worker program.

The program would be open to all undocumented workers now in the United States. Applicants who can show they have a job—or for those still in their home countries, a job offer—would get an initial three-year work permit that would be renewable for an unspecified period.

“We should have immigration laws that work and make us proud. Yet today we do not,” Bush said in the White House’s East Room, which he entered to loud cheers from dozens of representatives from Hispanic organizations and immigration groups.

Senate Judiciary Chairman

Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, praised Bush for opening the debate.

Allowing undocumented workers, who make up an unknown percentage of the approximately 8 million illegal immigrants now in the United States, to work legally here would benefit all Americans, Bush argued. He said it would make the nation’s borders more secure by allowing officials to focus more on the real threats to the country and would meet U.S. employers’ dire need for workers willing to take the low-wage, low-skill jobs unwanted by many Americans.

It also is the right thing to do, Bush said, to pull immigrants who now live in the shadows of

American society under the protection of U.S. labor laws, allow them to travel freely back and forth to their home countries, bring dependents they can support here with them and grant them the confidence to talk openly to authorities about crimes and exploitation on the job.

“One of the primary reasons America became a great power in the 20th century is because we welcomed the talent and the character and the patriotism of immigrant families,” the president said. “We must make our immigration laws more rational and more humane. And I believe we can do so without jeopardizing the livelihoods of American citizens.”



Unidentified farm workers place stakes for vegetables to grow on Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2004, near Homestead, Fla. AP

Oregon school shooter is seeking for new trial

GRANTS PASS, Ore. (AP)—A young man sentenced to nearly 112 years in prison for killing his parents and going on a deadly shooting rampage at his high school in 1998 is seeking a new trial, claiming evidence of his insanity was disregarded.

The petition, filed Dec. 17 in Marion County Circuit Court in Salem, says Kip Kinkel’s attorneys at the time had experts who determined he was insane, yet allowed him to plead guilty without seeking a court-ordered mental examination.

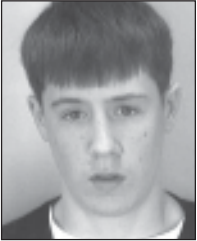
The petition also claims the judge should have ordered the mental exam to determine Kinkel’s competency. Kinkel’s

current attorney, Larry Matasar, declined Wednesday to comment on the case.

Kinkel was 15 when he shot and killed his parents in their home. A day later he drove to Thurston High School in Springfield. Armed with three guns, he sprayed a hallway and the cafeteria with bullets, killing two students and wounding 25.

Students tackled Kinkel and disarmed him.

The closest Kinkel came to explaining his actions was in a note he left at home, saying his parents could never live with the embarrassment of his expulsion from school for having a gun in his locker.



Kinkel

shell

Calves killed to prevent mad cow disease

WILBUR, Wash. (AP)—Federal workers using a vacant slaughterhouse in rural eastern Washington killed a herd of calves that included the offspring of a Holstein infected with mad cow disease whose bloodlines were traced to Canada.

The entire herd of 449 bull calves, ranging in age from 1 month to several months, was sedated and given lethal injections Tuesday, Nolan Lemon, spokesman for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, said Wednesday. The calves were buried at a landfill, a disposal method that officials said will protect the public from any possible health threat.

Agriculture officials had said the herd would have to be killed

because the calf born to the sick cow was not tagged and could not be identified. Officials have been unable to rule out the possibility that mad cow disease can be transmitted from mother to calf.

The animals were not to be processed for meat or other products. The carcasses will be buried at a landfill in southern Washington, Lemon said. Robert Nelson, a spokesman at the Washington state Agriculture Department, said a winter storm had delayed moving the carcasses and he expected the move in “a day or two.”

Sheriff’s cars blocked the snow-covered road leading to the slaughterhouse. A sign outside was covered with a black plastic bag.

Meanwhile, Sen. Tom

Daschle, D-S.D., and other Democrats announced their support for testing all cattle at slaughter. Daschle acknowledged it might not be immediately feasible because the USDA has yet to adopt tests that can be completed within a day or two. USDA officials have said they are considering more extensive testing.

Daschle also joined with other lawmakers from the Midwest in calling on Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman to temporarily close the border to all Canadian beef products.

“We need to get as much information about the safety of products from Canada as we can,” Daschle said. “The only way to do that effectively is to

shut down the border.”

Agriculture officials on Tuesday announced genetic testing had confirmed the infected Holstein was born in Canada. The DNA tests on the cow, one of its offspring and the semen from the cow’s sire showed the cow came from a dairy farm in Alberta, said Dr. Ron DeHaven, the Agriculture Department’s chief veterinarian.

Dr. Brian Evans, chief veterinary officer of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, said independent testing from a Canadian lab confirmed the findings.

The results puts new emphasis on Canada’s role in the investigation of the outbreak of the brain-wasting disease. The Holstein is the second cow originating in

western Canada diagnosed with mad cow disease since May.

Agriculture officials announced the latest mad cow diagnosis Dec. 23, marking the first time the disease has been found in the United States.

The cow, which was slaughtered Dec. 9, had come to the United States from Canada with

80 other cattle two years ago. The herd was dispersed because the previous owner could no longer operate his farm, Evans said.

Both countries have been trying to locate the remaining cattle. U.S. authorities so far have found 10 animals at two Washington farms that remained under quarantine.

Military can resume anthrax vaccinations

WASHINGTON (AP)—A federal judge Wednesday allowed the military to resume anthrax inoculations, although he questioned the timing of a government announcement declaring the vaccine safe.

U.S. District Judge Emmitt Sullivan announced his decision from the bench and then issued a two-page order, which ended the injunction he imposed Dec. 22 to halt the vaccinations.

The Pentagon has not said whether it will resume the vaccinations.

Eight days after the injunction, the Food and Drug Administration announced the vaccine was safe and effective for use against inhaled anthrax.

“Although the timing of the issuance of the rule is arguably highly suspicious, nevertheless, the rule has been issued and the principal reason for the issuance of the injunction has been addressed by the government,” the judge’s written order said.

Sullivan’s order still banned forced vaccination for six military personnel who filed a class-action lawsuit to stop the

mandatory vaccinations that started in 1998.

The Justice Department, citing the FDA order, had asked Sullivan to set aside his preliminary ban, except for the plaintiffs.

Sullivan’s action stayed, or halted, the class action part of the suit.

Sullivan said in his original order that he was convinced by the plaintiffs that the vaccine was experimental and being “used for an unapproved purpose”—that is, for exposure to airborne anthrax as well as exposure through the skin.

The federal government has long maintained that the licensed vaccine is safe, is not experimental and can be used for protection against anthrax inhaled or absorbed.

More than 900,000 servicemen and women have received the shots, among the millions of doses of various vaccines administered annually to protect troops against disease and bioterror threats. Hundreds of service members have been punished or discharged for refusing them, according to the Pentagon.

legislature bureau

Jailer, inmate accused of spree

A deputy jailer and a convicted burglar he was supposed to be taking to jail in Kentucky were arrested Wednesday after going on a 100-mile drunken road trip in a law-enforcement vehicle and making a series of false arrests, authorities said.

The jailer and inmate were caught after drivers began calling authorities to report that a drunken duo was making traffic stops, state Trooper Ralph Lockard said. They allegedly let the drivers go after accepting cash bribes.

The pair had left Knox County, in southeastern Kentucky, on Tuesday evening and were supposed to head to Lewis County, in the northeastern part of the state. Instead, the cruiser and the two men were found west of Lexington, in east-central Kentucky.

During the journey, “the inmate ended up out of the handcuffs and in the front seat, consuming alcohol,” Knox County Judge-Executive Raymond Smith said. “They started stopping speeding motorists and arresting them. They would get them in the back of the cruiser, cut a deal for cash and let them go.”

The deputy jailer, Clarence Wilson, 37, was driving a vehicle marked similar to a police cruiser, including emergency lights on the roof, authorities said.

Wilson, 37, has been suspended from his job pending the outcome of an investigation, Smith said. He was charged with drunken driving, impersonating an officer, unlawful imprisonment and official misconduct.

The inmate, Shawn Phillip Reynolds, 23, was charged with alcohol intoxication. He is serving five years for credit card fraud and burglary.

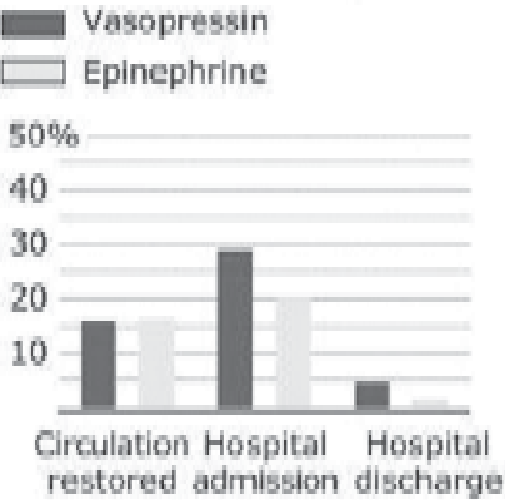
“I couldn’t believe this happened,” Smith said. “The next thing you’re likely to hear is that we’re on the Jerry Springer Show. I’m humiliated. I’m embarrassed. I apologize to the people of Knox County and the state.” (AP)

For-profit insurers performance assessed

Better drug for cardiac arrest

The hormone vasopressin saves many more lives after a patient's heart stops beating, compared to the drug epinephrine used for cardiac arrest for a century, a large study shows.

Outcome in patients with no heart beat or asystole



SOURCE: New England Journal of Medicine AP

Hormone rates well against heart attack

By LINDA A. JOHNSON
AP WRITER

A hormone called vasopressin is clearly better at saving the lives of patients whose hearts have stopped than the drug doctors have been using for the past 100 years, according to a study that could transform the treatment of sudden cardiac arrest.

For a century, cardiac arrest victims have been given epinephrine, a synthetic adrenaline that constricts blood vessels and boosts blood pressure. It is often administered when shocking the heart with a defibrillator fails to revive the patient.

Using vasopressin instead improved the chances of reaching a hospital alive by about 40 percent, and tripled the chances of going home from the hospital, in patients with the most deadly type of cardiac arrest, asystole, where all heart activity has stopped. Still, only 5 percent who got vasopressin made it home.

The large European study was reported in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

The finding should soon change international guidelines for treating people in cardiac arrest outside a hospital, predicted lead researcher Dr. Volker Wenzel, associate professor of anesthesiology and critical care medicine at Leopold-Franzens University in Innsbruck, Austria.

In an accompanying editorial, Dr. Kevin M. McIntyre of Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston called the findings "an important breakthrough." He noted that vasopressin does not appear to have the risks of epinephrine.

"These advances should be translated into a new standard of care immediately," he said.

Vasopressin, a synthetic hormone that narrows blood vessels, has been around for decades. A few years ago, the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation revised its guidelines to add vasopressin as an alternative first drug. That was partly because epinephrine sometimes increases irregular rhythms and decreases oxygen supply to the brain after resuscitation.

Each year, more than 600,000 people die of sudden cardiac arrest in North America and Europe, usually because of a heart attack or a heart rhythm disturbance.

By LINDA A. JOHNSON
AP WRITER

To researchers' surprise, a study found that for-profit health insurers are just as likely as not-for-profit ones to pay for costly operations for the elderly such as heart bypasses and knee replacements.

The study of 1997 data on 12 operations and other procedures showed that for-profit plans were neither denying care nor holding down costs as much as commonly believed, the researchers said.

The study was led by Dr. Eric C. Schneider, assistant professor of health policy and management at the Harvard School of Public Health, and was published in Thursday's New

England Journal of Medicine.

"I think in some ways it's reassuring," said Dr. Robert Berenson, who oversaw Medicare managed care contracts from 1998 through 2000 and now is a senior fellow at the nonpartisan Urban Institute. "The public's concerned HMOs are denying services, and this shows they're not."

The study looked at patients in Medicare's managed care program, in which hundreds of private-sector insurance companies contract with the government to provide people with coverage.

Patients in for-profit plans were actually more likely to undergo two operations: minimally invasive gallbladder

removal and removal of a cancerous colon segment.

But after adjusting statistically for differences among insurance plans and patients, the researchers found the rates were about the same for such procedures as hip and knee replacement, prostate removal, cardiac catheterization, heart bypass, angioplasty and clearing out a clogged neck artery.

However, some experts say the Medicare+Choice program has changed greatly since 1997 and the study's findings may not necessarily apply today. Many insurers that were losing money have quit the program since then. And public backlash led many managed care programs to back off on cost controls.

The study was based on government data on 3.7 million Medicare beneficiaries in 254 health plans.

Schneider said the study's "counterintuitive" findings are probably due to some combination of factors. Among them: for-profit and not-for-profit plans may actually have similar incentives and cost-cutting approaches, and the for-profits are worrying more about lawsuits and bad publicity for denying care.

Dr. Hoangmai Pham, a researcher at the Center for Studying Health System Change, said the most likely explanation is that not-for-profit insurers are offering more preventive care, which reduces the need for surgery.

boh

Embattled Conn. gov. apologizes on TV

By SUSAN HAIGH
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—Gov. John G. Rowland asked Connecticut’s citizens for the chance “to earn back your trust” Wednesday as he delivered a televised address that came amid growing pressure to resign for accepting gifts at his summer cottage and lying about it.

Rowland again apologized for his actions, saying “I lied and there are no excuses,” but he insisted he never provided any favors or took any actions in exchange for the gifts.

“Tonight, I humbly ask for a renewed opportunity to earn back your trust, to redeem myself in your eyes and to continue to lead this state,” Rowland said.

The three-term Republican, who was once considered a rising star in the national party, said only he is to blame for a situation he described as “my own personal nightmare.”

“As you can imagine, I’ve had many sleepless nights over the past few weeks. I’ve wrestled with John Rowland the governor and the mess I’ve created,” said the 46-year-old, looking straight into the camera. “But I’ve also wrestled with John Rowland the person.”

The speech is part of Rowland’s strategy to talk to the public and to as many legislators as possible about his acceptance

of gifts for the renovation of the cottage. The gifts ranged from gutters to a hot tub.

Some lawmakers have called for Rowland to resign, and there is some support in the Legislature to pursue impeachment. Five newspapers have called for his resignation.

The address comes a day after the Republican had a closed-door meeting with six legislative leaders, and a day after federal agents issued a subpoena for the governor’s personal financial records.

On Thursday, Democrats who control the House of Representatives plan to discuss whether to begin impeachment proceedings.

Democratic Speaker Moira Lyons, who would have the ultimate say whether to appoint a committee to study impeachment, said she thought Rowland was somber and sincere in his apology.

“However, given the drip, drip, drip of the very egregious revelations, I think that is a very huge hurdle to tackle,” she said.

“The governor’s made-for-television speech was just another feeble attempt at damage control and it is too late for apologies and spin,” said House Majority Leader James Amann, a Democrat.

Rowland admitted he accepted gifts and improvements to the lakeside cottage from politically appointed state employees and from the Tomasso Group, a contractor that is part of a federal investigation into corruption in Rowland’s administration.

Those who provided gifts include Lawrence Alibozek, a former aide who has pleaded guilty to federal charges that he took payoffs to help steer contracts. Federal agents have subpoenaed Tomasso and state agencies that had contracts with the group.

Some subcontractors have said they were promised they would get state work, possibly at the governor’s official residence, if they gave Rowland a bargain price for renovations.

Rowland has denied he made any such promises and said he did not know of anyone else making such promises. He has not been charged with any crimes.

Last week, federal investigators subpoenaed the state Department of Public Works for all documents relating to any construction and renovations made at the governor’s residence in Hartford. The department oversees the property.



Rowland

Two win \$8.1 milion in Tenet case

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—A Roman Catholic priest and a colleague have been awarded \$8.1 million following their whistleblower complaint about unnecessary heart surgeries performed at a northern California hospital.

The Rev. John Corapi, 56, and Joseph Zerga, 61, will be paid out of a \$54 million settlement that Redding Medical Center’s owner, Tenet Healthcare, reached last year with the federal government, U.S. Attorney McGregor W. Scott said Wednesday.

The shared award represents 15 percent of the settlement, the minimum allowed under the federal False Claims Act.

Corapi was seen in 2002 by Dr. Chae Moon, who was practicing in Redding and associated with Redding Medical Center. After undergoing a catheterization, Moon recommended Corapi undergo immediate, multiple heart bypass surgery, according to Corapi’s complaint.

The priest consulted a second doctor, who said Corapi did not need the surgery.

After complaining to hospital authorities, Corapi and Zerga filed a complaint with the FBI. No criminal charges have been filed in the case, but the FBI said its investigation remains open.

In agreeing to the settlement, which also reimburses the government for Medicare payments made for allegedly unnecessary surgeries, Tenet did not admit any wrongdoing.

Tenet, based in Santa Barbara, Calif., is seeking a buyer for the hospital.

First troops arrive home at Fort Campbell

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (AP)—Dusty and tired after nearly a year at war, the first 200 or so members of the 101st Airborne Division to come home from Iraq cuddled their loved ones and bowed their heads in thanks Wednesday.

“This was a hard deployment. It’s great to be home,” said Sgt. Robert Robinson, 25, of Detroit, who was surprised to be met by his bride, Charisse, who wore a white fur hat and dog tags with a picture of him etched on one side.

One little boy hugged his father’s knee as the tired and dirty soldiers in desert uniforms stood in formation inside an airport hangar to receive a word of thanks for their service from retired Brig. Gen. J.W. Noles.

“Welcome to the real world,” Noles said.

With that, many of the soldiers dropped their battle-tested helmets with a thud and ran off to kiss their loved ones. Others bowed their heads in a prayer of thanks.

“I just wanted to have it done,” said Robinson, who spent eight months in Afghanistan before leaving shortly thereafter for Iraq. He and his wife dated three months before he was deployed, and they married while he was home on leave in October.

“I’ll go anywhere with him,” his wife said. “We can be home for all I care, just me and him.”

The members of the division’s Screaming Eagle team

were among 600 soldiers arriving this week. The 101st is part of the first wave of troops to return home in the first half of the year after completing one-year tours.

The soldiers spoke of their constant fear of getting ambushed while traveling in convoys, and the difficulties of living in the sand. They described looking forward to eating steaks and hanging out with friends.

Spc. Jason Chambers, 20, of Hallsville, Texas, joked about the rough language he picked up. “Being around these guys changes you a lot. I’m going to have to start watching my words,” Chambers said, his girlfriend by his side.

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Flu outbreak worst in 30 years in West

By DANIEL Q. HANEY
AP MEDICAL EDITOR

The current flu outbreak is the worst for young U.S. children in years, several experts say, perhaps worse in Western states than the Hong Kong flu of 1968-69.

A government epidemiologist and other disease doctors predict flu deaths among babies and toddlers will exceed the estimated 92 who die in an average flu year.

“We would expect that number would be higher in a season like this. It would be more than 92,” said Dr. William Thompson of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. “The question is how

high. We can’t estimate that from our data.”

Even so, flu deaths among children are still rare. An average of 8,400 normally healthy children between 6 months and 24 months are hospitalized with the flu each year. The virus and its complications are the sixth-leading killer of children age 4 and under.

With the flu now widespread across half the country, large hospitals have already admitted hundreds of young patients, including a few critically ill in intensive care. Nearly all eventually get better, but the deaths have been particularly worrisome.

“What I am hearing

anecdotaly is this is a very, very bad season for children,” said Dr. Walt Orenstein, director of the National Immunization Program at the CDC.

So far, the CDC has learned of about three dozen deaths in children and teenagers. It is unclear how that figure compares to previous years because the agency doesn’t keep track of flu cases.

For the first season in four winters, the dominant flu strain is a so-called H3N2 virus, which is the most dangerous of the three main varieties of the bug. For that reason alone, experts say, the number of pediatric deaths will be higher than average.

The CDC estimates that in an

average year, about 36,000 people—including 92 children under age 4—die of the flu. However, the totals vary from year to year, depending on the strain that is circulating. Through the 1990s, the annual tally has ranged from 17,000 to 65,000. In a year when the more benign B-strain of flu dominates, just 24 deaths under age 4 are expected.

Flu can be a serious disease for the young because they have not built up much natural defense against the virus. Most older children and adults can fight off severe illness, even if they get sick, because previous infections have strengthened their immune systems.

This year may be especially

bad because many young children have never encountered an H3N2 virus. Making matters worse, this season’s virus is genetically different from the one that circulated in the late 1990s, so older children who had the flu then may not have very strong immunity.

Flu is most dangerous for youngsters who already have heart and lung problems, such as

asthma, cardiac birth defects and lung damage resulting from prematurity.

However, doctors said they are especially concerned by reports of flu deaths among children who are otherwise healthy. In Colorado, where the first child flu deaths appeared, state officials said that at least four of the 11 young flu fatalities had no underlying diseases.

Ex-governor indicted on corruption charges

CHICAGO (AP)—Former Gov. George Ryan, who gained a worldwide reputation as a critic of the death penalty, was indicted Wednesday on charges of taking payoffs in a corruption scandal that shadowed his entire four years in office and cut short his political career.

Prosecutors said the 69-year-old Republican and his family took cash, gifts, vacations and other favors to steer state business to friends and associates while he was governor and, before that, Illinois secretary of state.

“The charged conduct by former Gov. Ryan reflects a disturbing violation of trust,” U.S. Attorney Patrick J. Fitzgerald said. “Ryan is charged with betraying the citizens of Illinois for over a decade on state business, both large and small.”

Ryan did not immediately return a call for comment and no one answered the door at his home in Kankakee. Timothy Rooney, a partner of Ryan defense attorney Dan K. Webb, said a statement would be released later.

Ryan, who served as secretary of state from 1991 to 1999 and governor from 1999 to last January, has said he knew there was a culture of corruption in the secretary of state’s office but was unaware of the specifics.

He becomes the third Illinois governor indicted in the past 40 years.

Outside Illinois, Ryan is best known as an ardent critic of the way capital punishment is carried out. He declared a moratorium on executions in Illinois after it was discovered that 13 wrongfully convicted men had been sent to death row.

Last January, just before leaving office, he cleared out Illinois’ death row, pardoning four condemned prisoners and commuting the death sentences of 167 others to life in prison.

The scandal was a factor in his 2001 decision not to seek a second term, and his unpopularity was considered a major reason GOP candidates were routed statewide in the 2002 elections.

The five-year federal investigation initially focused on the selling of driver’s licenses for bribes at the secretary of state’s office, which oversees the motor vehicle agency. But the investigation was soon expanded to a range of corruption under Ryan, a glad-handing, baby-kissing politician from the old school.



Ryan

Elderly man may be charged in fatal crash

SANTAMONICA, Calif. (AP)—Police will ask the district attorney to file manslaughter charges against an 87-year-old man whose car roared through a farmer’s market in this beachfront city, killing 10 people and injuring 63.

The July 16 crash was the result of unsafe speed and other violations by Russell Weller, police Chief James T. Butts told reporters outside police headquarters Wednesday.

“We’re asking consideration of the district attorney’s office in seeking to file the charge of manslaughter,” Butts said.

Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley said his office has received the police department’s more than 900-page report and will make a decision after reviewing it. An assistant prosecutor said he

expected a decision to be made in a few weeks.

“The DA’s office had prosecutors present at the crime scene within the first few hours and has been reviewing reports and interviewing hundreds of witnesses since then,” Cooley said in a statement issued shortly before the news conference.

Weller’s attorney said his client shouldn’t face charges.

“We’re anxious to see the report because we’ve conducted our own extensive investigation and concluded this was a tragic, terrible accident,” attorney Jim Bianco said. “There was no intent to hurt anyone, no negligence and no crime.”

He added that Weller was heartbroken by what happened: “He suffers every minute of every day knowing that he was driving that car.”

ctsi

WTC tower design includes windmills

NEW YORK (AP)—Instead of the initially proposed “gardens in the sky,” the 1,776-foot Freedom Tower at the World Trade Center site will be topped by environmentally friendly windmills, people familiar with the latest plans for the building said Wednesday.

The building will have 70 floors of office space topped by broadcast antennas, wind turbines and cables resembling a suspension bridge.

The use of windmills in a tall building “is innovative and different and new and is something that will have to be designed carefully,” said Ashok Gupta, director of the air and energy program at the Natural Resources Defense Council, who has been advising redevelopment officials on environmental issues.

Neill Coleman, a spokesman

for the New York State League of Conservation Voters, said, “We’re very excited about the idea of a renewable energy component to the design.”

Detailed plans for the tower, the first that will go up at the trade center site, will be released next week by Gov. George Pataki.

The design is a collaboration between Daniel Libeskind, who submitted the winning plan for redevelopment, and David Childs, the chief architect for leaseholder Larry Silverstein.

The New York Times reported Wednesday that the design would bear little resemblance to Libeskind’s original, asymmetrical structure. A source familiar with the plans, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press that the twisting, tapered building would still evoke the

Statue of Liberty across the harbor, as Libeskind envisioned.

When Libeskind presented his site plan one year ago, the occupied floors of the 1,776-foot tower were topped by “gardens in the sky.” The building has undergone many revisions since then and its precise shape is still being determined, the source said.

Negotiations between Childs and Libeskind have been contentious and are continuing.

Asked about the building Tuesday, Libeskind said, “in the end, I would attempt to make sure the Freedom Tower fits in the entire setting” of his original plan.

Matthew Higgins, chief operating officer of the Lower Manhattan Development Corp., said: “We’re excited by the progress on the building, but more work remains to be done.”

Police chief accused of misusing cash

BALTIMORE (AP)—Maryland’s police superintendent has been indicted on charges of spending charity money on extramarital affairs and personal trips while he was Baltimore’s police commissioner.

Indicted with Edward T. Norris was his former chief of staff at the Baltimore department, John Stendrini. They are accused of misusing more than \$20,000 between May 2000 and August 2002 from an account created from three Depression-era charity funds set up to benefit police officers.

“The defendants repeatedly used the funds as if it were their own ATM,” U.S. Attorney Thomas DiBiagio said Wednesday.

DiBiagio said the pair also used police officers to “transport female companions in connection with romantic encounters” between Norris and at least six women.

Norris, 43, is also accused of lying on a mortgage application to a municipal employees’ credit union.

His attorney, Andrew J. Graham, did not respond to phone calls Wednesday seeking



Norris

comment. Stendrini’s attorney, Michael Schatzow, was out of town and could not immediately be reached for comment, his office said.

Norris was the Baltimore police commissioner from May 2000 through 2002, when he left to join the Maryland State Police.

Aspokesman for Gov. Robert Ehrlich, who hired Norris as state police superintendent, said the indictment was being reviewed. Asked if Norris had resigned or had been asked to resign, Massoni said, “I can’t say.”

Norris said last summer that he would not step down from his job as superintendent even if he was indicted.

“Unless the governor asks me to leave, I’m not going,” Norris told The (Baltimore) Sun in July. “I haven’t done anything illegal. ... I’ll go to trial if it comes to that.”

Norris is charged with conspiracy to misapply funds, misapplication of funds and making a false statement in a mortgage application. Stendrini, 60, is charged with conspiracy to misapply funds, misapplication of funds and obstruction of justice.

If convicted of all charges, Norris would face a maximum sentence of 45 years. Stendrini would face a maximum sentence of 25 years.

More indictments could follow, DiBiagio said.

“The investigation is continuing, and this case is about more than Ed Norris,” DiBiagio said.

Norris and Stendrini were expected to surrender Thursday and make initial court appearances later that day.

Detroit terror case in danger of reversal

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Bush administration’s first major post-Sept. 11 prosecution, which broke up an al-Qaida cell in Detroit, is in danger of unraveling after the Justice Department divulged it had failed to turn over evidence that might have helped the defense.

The evidence includes a letter from an imprisoned drug gang leader who alleges the government’s key witness confided he made up some of his story.

The December 2001 letter, which could have been used by defense lawyers to challenge the prosecution witness during the trial this spring, wasn’t turned over until a couple of weeks ago.

The defendants are now asking that their convictions be

overturned, and the judge has scheduled an emergency hearing Friday to demand an explanation from the government.

“It has come to the attention of the court that the government has recently provided defendants with certain material that was not provided to defendants either prior to or during trial of this matter,” U.S. District Judge Gerald Rosen said in ordering the hearing.

Senior law enforcement officials told The Associated Press on Wednesday the Justice Department is concerned how the judge will rule and will acknowledge that its prosecutors erred.

Under the Supreme Court’s Brady v. Maryland ruling, prosecutors are obligated to turn

over all evidence that can be used to impeach the testimony of prosecution witnesses or to prove innocence.

The Justice Department will argue, however, that the jailhouse allegation that prosecution witness Youssef Hmimssa lied is not supported by the facts and that the convictions should be upheld, the officials said. The two prosecutors who handled the trial have been replaced.

The dramatic turnabout in a case that was one of the administration’s early successes in the war on terror is further complicated by discussions between Congress and the Justice Department over whether the lead trial prosecutor is entitled to whistleblower protection.

spmi

Boston Archdiocese mortgages property

BOSTON (AP)—The sex scandal in the Boston Archdiocese has shaken the church almost literally to its foundations.

To help pay the \$85 million settlement reached with more than 500 victims of child-molesting priests, the archdiocese has mortgaged its very seat of power—the Cathedral of the Holy Cross—and is putting up for sale the archbishop’s residence, an Italian Renaissance-style mansion that was a symbol of the church’s grandeur and authority. Dozens of churches are also expected to be closed in a move at least accelerated by the scandal.

Some of these steps were almost unthinkable just a year ago, when Cardinal Bernard Law was in charge. The archdiocese fiercely resisted selling property to settle abuse claims before Law finally resigned as archbishop amid fierce criticism of his handling of the sex allegations.

“My sense was this was simply sacrosanct,” said attorney Jeffrey Newman, whose firm represents about half the victims in the settlement. “The property had a long tradition here, but it harkened back to an old regime that believed things like (molestation by priests) should be kept quiet and their reputation should be protected at all costs.”

It was not until the installation over the summer of Archbishop Sean O’Malley, a Capuchin Franciscan friar who had taken a vow of poverty and

refused to live in the mansion, that the church reached the record-breaking settlement.

The opulent three-story mansion, built by a former archbishop on the outskirts of Boston during the 1920s, has been valued at anywhere from \$14 million to \$100 million.

Where previously the mansion had been seen as a shining example of the church’s standing and power, it is now regarded by some as an embarrassing symbol of the arrogance of a church that protected child-molesting priests.

Boston College, a Jesuit university across the street, has expressed interest in the property, but it is unknown if any offers have been made.

Thurmond daughter: I feel completely free

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—The 78-year-old daughter of the late Sen. Strom Thurmond and a black maid said Wednesday that now that she has come forward to disclose her heritage, “at last I feel completely free.”

“There are many stories like Sally Hemings’ and mine,” said Essie Mae Washington-Williams, referring to Thomas Jefferson’s relationship with one of his black slaves.

“The unfortunate measure is that not everyone knows about these stories that helped to make America

what it is today,” Williams said.

Williams announced last weekend she is the illegitimate daughter of Thurmond, a former segregationist, and a black teenage maid in his family home, Carrie Butler.

Thurmond was 22 and Butler was 16 when Williams was born in Aiken, S.C., in 1925. She was raised in Pennsylvania by an aunt and uncle, seeing her mother sporadically and not meeting Thurmond until she was 16.

After Thurmond died in June at age 100, Williams said she began to think about ending “all the speculation and questions”

about the long-rumored relationship. She said she did not come forward earlier because she didn’t want to jeopardize Thurmond’s political career.

“I am not bitter. I am not angry,” she said during a news conference just blocks the Statehouse where a monument of Thurmond sits. “In fact, there is a great sense of peace that has come over me in the past year.

“I feel as though a great weight has been lifted. I am Essie Mae Washington-Williams, and at last I feel completely free.”



Jury deliberates sniper suspect’s fate

CHESAPEAKE, Va. (AP)—The jury in the murder case against sniper suspect Lee Boyd Malvo began deliberating Wednesday, trying to decide whether he was a willing participant in last year’s killings or was brainwashed by John Allen Muhammad.

Malvo’s attorneys mounted an insanity defense, arguing that Muhammad’s indoctrination left him unable to tell right from wrong.

The 18-year-old is charged with capital murder in the Oct. 14, 2002, slaying of FBI analyst Linda Franklin during the three-week reign of terror in the Washington area that left 10 people dead and three wounded.

Malvo is charged under two theories: One accuses him of multiple murders in a three-year period; the second alleges the killing was intended to terrorize the public.

The jury must conclude that Malvo pulled the trigger to convict him under the multiple murder charge. He initially confessed to being the triggerman but recanted several months later.

Muhammad, 42, was convicted of capital murder, and the jury recommended he be put to death.

At least 30 arrested in Ind. heroin ring

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—At least 30 people were arrested in a crackdown on a heroin ring operating in the Midwest for as long as a decade, authorities said Wednesday.

Thirty arrests were made in Indianapolis, Bloomington, Chicago and Cincinnati, and authorities said three more were expected. The operation brought in as much as \$500,000 a month, said Armand McClintock, a Drug Enforcement Administration agent.

The ring had no apparent ties to motorcycle gangs that have been implicated in other drug operations this year in Indiana, McClintock said.

“These are just old-time heroin traffickers,” McClintock said.

Seventeen of those arrested face federal drug conspiracy and possession counts, and others face less serious charges.

Authorities seized \$50,000 in cash, 16 firearms and a quarter-kilogram of heroin with an estimated street value of \$75,000.

Man gets death in pregnant killing

WATERBURY, Conn. (AP)—A jury sentenced a man to death Wednesday for stabbing a pregnant woman to death over a drug debt.

Robert Courchesne was found guilty in 2001 of luring Demetris Rodgers to an ATM and stabbing her to death in 1998. The baby was born minutes after the attack, but died six weeks later. The woman was eight months pregnant.

Prosecutors said Rodgers was stabbed over a \$410 drug debt.

Prosecutor John Connelly argued that Courchesne did not immediately tell anyone what had happened—instead leaving Rodgers in the street to die.

But public defender Ronald Gold said the death penalty should be reserved for “the worst people who commit the worst crimes.”

“Can a good person do something terribly, terribly wrong? Yes. That’s what happened to Bob Courchesne,” Gold said.

Judge Frank M. D’Addabbo will formally sentence Courchesne on Jan. 15. He is bound by the jury’s decision, unless he finds flaws with the verdict.

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Asia

China appeals to Taiwan to open trade

By STEPHANIE HOO
AP WRITER

BELJING (AP)—China appealed to rival Taiwan on Wednesday to reopen direct trade and travel links while vowing to “smash” what it calls an independence movement led by the self-ruled island’s president.

The mainland’s Taiwan Affairs Office said closer integration would help the island’s slumping economy, but

renewed warnings that formal independence could lead to a violent Chinese response.

“We must be well prepared to smash the Taiwan independence activities into pieces,” Li Weiyl, a spokesman for the office, told reporters.

The tone of the briefing—alternately conciliatory and menacing—captured the conflict at the heart of China-Taiwan relations. The briefing was called to release a report launching a

new appeal for closer ties but started with an angry statement denouncing Taiwan’s President Chen Shui-bian.

Chen is “wantonly conducting all kinds of activities for Taiwan independence, plotting to split Taiwan from China,” Li said.

Chen has announced plans to hold a March 20 referendum that asks voters to demand that China redeploy hundreds of missiles pointed at Taiwan, just 100 miles

off China’s coast. Beijing has long feared that any referendum could lead to a vote on independence.

Last week, Washington said it opposed any moves by Taiwan or China to unilaterally change the status quo. Chen has argued that his March 20 vote wouldn’t touch on sensitive sovereignty issues.

Taiwan’s legislature passed two resolutions Tuesday calling on China to remove hundreds of

missiles pointed at the island. The move was part of the opposition’s efforts to counter plans by Chen to hold the referendum by showing that it’s already clear that most Taiwanese want China to remove the missiles.

China also warned Taiwan on Wednesday that it shouldn’t try to join the World Health Organization, arguing that the self-ruled island isn’t an independent country.

Renewing direct links to the mainland—banned by Taiwan since the two sides split in 1949—will “bring benefits to both sides,” said He Shizhong, director of the office’s economics bureau, reading from the report.

Taiwanese businesses are lobbying for an end to the restrictions, complaining that they raise the cost of doing business with China, where many have factories.

Taiwan’s entrepreneurs have invested more than \$100 billion on the mainland since the island lifted a ban on commercial contacts a decade ago.

Tens of thousands of Taiwanese live at least part-time on the mainland and have to travel by way of Hong Kong or other third points when they visit their homes.

“The obstruction of the `three direct links’ has been one of the important causes of Taiwan’s economic stagnation,” the report said, referring to direct transportation, trade and postal delivery.

Devices on limo saved Musharraf’s life

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—High-tech jamming devices saved Pakistan’s president from an assassination attempt, delaying by a few crucial seconds the detonation of a bomb that targeted his motorcade, intelligence officials told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

As investigators continued their probe into the attack, the government vowed to root out extremism, amid suspicions that al-Qaida or homegrown Islamic militants opposed to Pakistan’s support of the U.S.-led war on terrorism were behind the bombing.

President Gen. Pervez Musharraf was riding in a limousine through the city of Rawalpindi when the blast occurred Sunday evening, ripping through a concrete bridge just after he crossed it.



Musharraf

believed to include both a remote control and a timing device to trigger it, two intelligence officials told AP.

Jamming equipment in Musharraf’s limousine stopped the timer for about a minute and also jammed the remote control, the officials said.

“It was enough time for Musharraf to cross the bridge,” one of the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The jammers emit a magnetic impulse to block frequencies used

to trigger bombs—including the electronic signals from precision timers. Defense analyst Talat Masood said that security agencies worldwide use such equipment, and it had been imported to Pakistan.

Musharraf said he heard and felt the blast between 30 seconds and a minute after he crossed the bridge. There were no injuries as the bridge was blocked to traffic to let his motorcade pass.

CLUB JAMA

DASSANI COKE
CMYK

World



The US-VISIT system shows “No Hit Found” as it displays the fingerprints and photo of engineering student Andres Morales as it cleared him through customs at Hartsfield Jackson International Airport in Atlanta, Monday, Jan. 5, 2004 using the US-VISIT system.

US security needs anger some Europeans

By JILL LAWLESS
AP WRITER

LONDON (AP)—Fears of a new airborne terrorist attack have brought heightened tensions, grounded flights—and created turbulence for U.S.-European relations.

Some European nations have balked at the United States’ tough new aviation security measures, which include armed guards on aircraft and preflight scrutiny of passenger lists. Airlines, hit by rising security demands, want governments to handle part of the cost.

Meanwhile, France is searching for an Afghan on a U.S. list of suspected terrorists because someone with his name failed to board a Christmas Eve flight across the Atlantic that was canceled amid security fears, officials said Wednesday.

A passenger surnamed Hai was ticketed for Air France Flight 68 to Los Angeles but did not show up, French officials said. They said investigators have not yet established whether the passenger is the Abdou Hai on a U.S. terrorism watch list or someone with the same name.

The name was one reason why security on trans-Atlantic flights was stepped up over the holiday season. In all, six Air France flights between Paris and Los Angeles on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day were canceled amid concerns members of the al-Qaida terrorist network might try to board planes.

The Air France flights were canceled after U.S. intelligence told their French counterparts that al-Qaida operatives would try to board the planes over Christmas, French officials have said.

Since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, many airlines around the world have acceded to U.S. requests, installing bulletproof cockpit doors on aircraft and agreeing to share passenger lists with U.S. authorities. But for some, the demand for armed sky marshals on flights to the United States was a step too far.

While a European Union-wide aviation safety agency is being established, each member country has been free to take its own position on sky marshals.

The Irish government, which took over the rotating presidency of the European Union on Jan. 1, said Wednesday it was

organizing a meeting of EU aviation chiefs in Brussels, Belgium, next week to discuss the U.S. request.

On Dec. 29, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced that airlines would be required to place armed law enforcement officers on flights to the United States “where necessary.”

The announcement came after U.S. authorities raised their terrorism alert to orange, the second-highest level, and increased security surrounding international flights. More than a dozen flights to the United States on British Airways, Aeromexico and Air France have been canceled or delayed since New Year’s Eve because of security fears.

British Transport Secretary Alistair Darling called the deployment of sky marshals “responsible and prudent” and said passengers would have to get used to increased security. France and Germany, alongside nations such as Canada and Australia, also agreed to the U.S. request, with Germany saying it has had sky marshals on some flights for more than two years.

But civil aviation authorities in Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Portugal all said they would not allow armed marshals to fly and would instead cancel flights if there was a strong suspicion of a planned attack.

Sky marshals are not the first American demand to have met a mixed reception. In December, after months of negotiations, the European Union agreed to share flight passenger lists with U.S. authorities. But the EU won concessions to comply with European privacy rules, including an agreement to hold the data for 3 1/2 years rather than the 50 years originally proposed.

And on Wednesday the Australian airline Qantas bridled at a U.S. request that it discourage passengers from gathering in groups during flights to America. Australian Transport Minister John Anderson described the request as “a little bit hard to handle.”

Other nations have been irked by the U.S. introduction of fingerprint scanning and photographing for visitors from all but 27 mostly European nations. Last week, Brazil began fingerprinting and photographing arriving Americans in retaliation.

fun & games
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Iraq mortar attack wounds 35 US soldiers

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)—Anti-American insurgents fired mortar rounds at a U.S. military camp Wednesday night, wounding 35 U.S. soldiers, the U.S. command said.

Six mortar rounds exploded about 6:45 p.m. at Logistical Base Seitz west of Baghdad, a U.S. military spokesman said in a

6 found guilty in assassination

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP)—A jury on Wednesday found six men guilty in the murder of former deputy prime minister Andre Cools, whose assassination 12 years ago roiled Belgian politics, sparked a bribery investigation and led to the resignation of a NATO secretary general.

Prosecutors argued that former government minister Alain Van der Biest was involved in Cools’ execution-style killing on June 18, 1991, because Cools was trying to destroy his political career.

The jury deliberated for six hours before finding two men who worked in Van der Biest’s Cabinet guilty of planning the murder. Four others were also found guilty of participating in the murder.

All had pleaded innocent.

Van der Biest, 58, killed himself three months after being re-arrested in 2001 on suspicion of masterminding the murder. In a suicide note

he left for his wife, he wrote: “Forgive me. I am innocent.”

He was convicted in 2000 for a separate corruption scandal.

The son of the murdered socialist leader praised the jury’s verdict, which came after 12 weeks of testimony.

“The decision of the jury made good sense,” Marcel Cools said. “The verdict is reasonable.”

The Cools murder investigation led to the discovery of several corruption scandals, including the payment of bribes by Italian aircraft maker Agusta SpA to socialist politicians for a Belgian military contract.

That led to the resignation of four Socialist ministers, the suicide of an army general and the downfall of former Deputy Prime Minister Willy Claes as NATO secretary general.

The jury was to reconvene late Wednesday or Thursday to decide prison terms for the six, all of whom could get up to life in prison.

statement. The camp is located in the so-called Sunni Muslim triangle that is a stronghold of resistance to the U.S. occupation of Iraq.

“The wounded soldiers were given first aid and have been evacuated from the site for further medical treatment,” the statement said. The Pentagon added that the soldiers were from the Army’s 541st Maintenance Battalion, based in Fort Riley, Kan., and part of the 3rd Corps Support Command.

The mortars hit “a living area where they have their sleeping quarters,” the spokesman said.

A Pentagon spokesman said that some of those wounded returned to duty shortly after the attack, while others were

hospitalized. The spokesman, Lt. Col. James Cassella, said he did not know how many were seriously or lightly wounded.

Earlier Wednesday, U.S. troops said they destroyed a home in Fallujah, the center of the anti-American insurgency west of Baghdad, where enraged neighbors said a married couple was killed and their five children were orphaned.

The neighbors insisted the couple was innocent in an attack on the troops that led them to shell the house.

“This is democracy? These corpses?” Raad Majeed asked at the hospital, gesturing at the remains of the couple, on gurneys covered with bloody sheets. “It’s

a crime against humanity.”

The 82nd Airborne Division said its paratroopers acted after receiving “two rounds of indirect fire” around 9 p.m. Tuesday.

“Paratroopers from our Task Force engaged the point of origin with a grenade launcher and small arms, causing two personnel to flee into a nearby building, which was also engaged and destroyed,” division spokeswoman Capt. Tammy Galloway said in a statement.

“The building was searched and no weapons or personnel were found. Upon questioning, civilians in the area reported two dead personnel were taken to a nearby hospital,” the statement said.

Civilian deaths in the counterinsurgency campaign have enraged many Iraqis at a time when the U.S.-led coalition is trying to win popular support. On Wednesday, the coalition announced it was freeing 506 of 12,800 prisoners in a goodwill gesture also aimed at encouraging more Iraqis to come forward with intelligence against anti-American guerrillas.

Officials offered rewards for the capture or information confirming the deaths of 30 more wanted Iraqis, putting bounties of \$50,000 to \$200,000 on their heads. That is in addition to bounties for the 13 remaining fugitives at large from the original 55 most wanted Iraqis whose pictures appeared on a deck of cards.

More Army reservists called for Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP)—The number of military reservists called to active duty jumped by more than 10,000 in the past week, the Pentagon said Wednesday, reflecting an Army mobilization of National Guard and Reserve troops for Iraq to relieve the forces that have been there nearly a year.

Guard and Reserve troops will play a larger role in the new force, representing nearly 40 percent of the total of 110,000 troops, compared with about 20 to 25 percent of the force there now. They have been told they will spend up to 12 months in Iraq, meaning many will be on active duty for about 18 months, including a pre-deployment training period

and a demobilization.

There are now 193,959 reservists on active duty around the world, the Pentagon said. That is the highest total since the week of July 30, when the number stood at 197,226. The number declined steadily from that point and stood at just over 154,000 in early November, according to Pentagon figures.

The number has increased by about 30,000 since early December as the Army has called up many Guard and Reserve units to prepare for their deployment to Iraq. This week the Army added 10,653 to its active-duty rolls—the biggest weekly increase since a jump of 13,384 in early December.

UN closes last Croatian offices

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The United Nations refugee agency has closed its last three field offices in Croatia, a move it said symbolizes a “sea change” in the tiny republic once ravaged by fighting in the breakup of Yugoslavia.

The three field offices, which helped repatriate one-time refugees, were closed at the end of the year, the U.N. High Commission for Refugees said in a statement Wednesday. It said local relief agencies and the government can handle the remaining work.

Croatian Serbs took up arms in 1991 to rebel against the country’s independence from the former Yugoslavia and seized a third of the country, killing thousands of Croats. In 1995, Croatia recaptured those areas in two blitz offensives, and many Croats took revenge, killing hundreds of Serbs and forcing at least 150,000 of them to flee the country.

“After such a dramatic decade, a sea change is the only way to describe the refugee agency’s closure,” the UNHCR statement said.

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Mexicans guardedly embrace work program

By **OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ**
AP WRITER

GENERAL BRAVO, Mexico (AP)—After lifetimes spent finding ways to sneak into the United States, Mexicans are excited over a new plan by President Bush that may allow them to cross legally for work while maintaining a life in Mexico. But many worry they will have to compete with a flood of new foreign applicants. Others, jaded by a U.S. immigration system that seems set up to work against them, believe the program could be a trick to catch and deport family members already living in the United States. In this tiny town, an hour’s

drive south of the Texas border, the only people who stay are those too young and too old for the trip to the United States. The rest shuttle back and forth, paying smugglers to get them across the border in sealed trucks or through snake-infested deserts. The trip has become increasingly dangerous as smugglers try to circumvent heavy security measures put in place after the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States. On Wednesday, the Bush administration announced a program aimed at allowing migrants with jobs to apply for a three-year, temporary work program. Administration officials

say the program will make America safer by helping document the estimated 8 million migrants now living underground in the United States. The program would allow migrants with potential or real jobs—both those in foreign countries and others living illegally in the United States—to apply for a temporary work status. They could come and go as they pleased, perhaps even living in Mexico but working in the United States. The Mexican government welcomed the announcement, with President Vicente Fox receiving a call Wednesday from Bush. Fox said the program would recognize the value of Mexi-

cans living in the United States. The governments of Colombia and the Dominican Republic also welcomed the changes. “Most Dominicans who are working in the United States illegally want to regularize their situation and live in peace,” said Rafael Peralta, spokesman for President Hipolito Mejia. “Latin American leaders should be celebrating this proposal.” But 20-year-old Alejandro Chapa, sweeping General Bravo’s town square for \$36 a week, wondered who would qualify for the new program. “Don’t you think it is going to be tough?” he said. “Right now it is really hard to get papers.” He believes that migrants

living in Mexico won’t be able to qualify because it’s hard to find jobs without traveling to the United States and usually immigration officials want you to show you have enough money to support the move. “They ask for too much. They even ask that you have money in the bank, and poor people like us don’t have anything,” he said. Many Mexicans are also wary of U.S. immigration officials, seeing them as a sure route to deportation. Many complain the requirements to get even a tourist visa to see relatives in the United States are too stringent. Some have spent years without seeing brothers or even parents. Others simply aren’t going to wait for the program, which must be approved by Congress. Chapa already has a job lined up at a Mexican restaurant in San Antonio, Texas, and plans to cross illegally with three friends on Monday. The four will pay a smuggler to help them. They dream of the day when they could simply apply for papers and cross a bridge over the Rio Grande, entering the United States legally and being protected under U.S. labor laws that are often ignored for illegal workers. Being able to travel back and forth - a key element of Bush’s

plan—is something many Mexicans would welcome. For 21-year-old Jose Guzman, the freedom of travel would mean he could earn dollars in the United States, but live in Mexico - where a U.S. minimum wage salary can buy a house, a car and many other things still out of reach for many poor Mexicans. “I would work anywhere to be able to come home with something,” he said. Some fear the new program will prompt a flood of Mexican applicants trying to enter the United States. Cruz Salinas, 69, said half of the young men from General Bravo are working illegally in the United States already, and the rest are trying to find a way to follow them. If the new program is approved, “all the young people here are going to want to go.” Priest Esteban Ramirez, who runs a migrant shelter in the border city of Reynosa, across from McAllen, said the program would clear the way for many Mexicans to finally return home. Many migrants stay in the United States for years because they fear they won’t be able to return. Still, he feared the program would impose a lot of requirements most could not met. “The problem is in the details,” he said.

German Catholics: Muslim scarf political

By **DAVID RISING**
AP WRITER

BERLIN (AP)—The Muslim headscarf should be considered a political symbol and legislation banning public school teachers from wearing it should not extend to religious symbols that are part of the country’s “Christian tradition,” a German Catholic organization said Wednesday. The statement was the latest development in a nationwide debate that began in September after Germany’s highest court ruled veils are allowed unless existing legislation outlaws them. The Federal Constitutional Court further said any new laws must treat all religions equally. The Central Committee of German Catholics said banning all religious symbols “would ignore the meaning of the Christian tradition of this country.” The headscarf should be seen as a “symbol against the equal rights of women, and thus against our free democratic constitutional structure as well as the values of our society,” the group said. Along those lines, the state of Lower Saxony announced Wednesday that it would introduce legislation next week

to ban the headscarf for school-teachers, joining Bavaria and Baden-Wuerttemberg. As in the two other states, Lower Saxony will propose banning the headscarf as a political symbol in order to prevent “it being equated with a cross,” said government spokesman Olaf Glaeseker. The head of Germany’s Jewish community urged states not to act in haste to pass new measures. In this week’s edition of the Juedischen Allgemeinen Wochenzeitung newspaper, Paul Spiegel said the debate over the headscarf has been superficial and needs greater discussion. Germany, which has some 3.5 million Muslims, is closely watching France’s struggle with the same issue. French President Jacques Chirac announced plans in December to ban all religious symbols from public schools. On Wednesday, a French Muslim fundamentalist leader said some Muslim girls will likely transfer to private schools, including Roman Catholic establishments, if the headscarf is banned. “I know that our Catholic brothers are very tolerant,” Lhaj Thami Breze, president of the influential Union of Islamic Organizations of France, said in a newspaper interview.

cic common



The Islamic crescent moon is seen with the Christian cross as workers construct a memorial to victims of the Egyptian charter airplane crash on a hillside in the Red Sea resort city of Sharm el-Sheik, Egypt, Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2004.

Iraq leaders push for UN transition role

By NICK WADHAMS
AP WRITER

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—U.S.-backed Iraqi leaders have stepped up pressure on Secretary-General Kofi Annan to have the United Nations play a central role in the country’s transition to self-rule, diplomats said Wednesday.

The moves come less than a week before a crucial meeting among U.N., Iraqi and coalition figures to help determine the world body’s mandate in Iraq.

In a letter to Annan, Abdel Aziz Hakim, representing the U.S.-appointed Iraqi Governing Council, asked the United Nations to help figure out how power should be transferred from the U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority to the Iraqis themselves.

Council diplomats said Wednesday the Dec. 29 letter was one of many from the Iraqi Governing Council urging the United Nations to return quickly to the country.

Annan pulled out all international staff after the August bombing of the U.N. headquarters in Iraq and says it is still too dangerous to return. A U.N. official said Annan hasn’t responded to Hakim’s letter.

On Jan. 19, Annan is scheduled to meet with the current president of the Governing Council and a representative of the Coalition Provisional Authority.

Annan has said the meeting is needed for the coalition and

the Iraqis to give the United Nations a clear idea of the role it will play until June 30, when a timetable worked out by the United States and the Governing Council calls for the coalition to hand over power to an Iraqi transitional government.

Neither diplomats nor U.N. officials will speculate on what the Jan. 19 meeting could produce.

However, council diplomats questioned how much work the United Nations would be able to tackle in Iraq that soon because it has no international staff on the ground. It is setting up offices in Cyprus and Jordan, and has Iraqis doing humanitarian work inside Iraq.

Council diplomats also said that Hakim’s letter points to deeper conflict within Iraq and the Governing Council itself that would affect the U.N. role.

Iraq’s Shiite Muslims, who comprise about 60 percent of the population, want direct elections for the government, while Sunni Muslims and other minorities back a Nov. 15 agreement that would have a legislature elected through caucuses in each of Iraq’s 18 provinces and convened by the end of May. Hakim is a Shiite.

One problem will be making sure any deal worked out between the United Nations and the Governing Council doesn’t violate the Nov. 15 agreement between the Governing Council and the coalition. The agreement doesn’t lay out a U.N. role in the transition of power.

Egypt Air’s second black box found

SHARM EL-SHEIK, Egypt (AP)—Searchers on Wednesday detected the second black box flight data recorder of a charter jet that crashed into the Red Sea last weekend.

The box located Wednesday is about 2,625 feet below the surface of the Red Sea. The one found Tuesday was up to 2,600 feet deep, a French official said. They are between 1,100 and 2,000 yards apart.

“The signals were good and clear,” said Rear Adm. Jacques Mazars. “The signal of the second black box is stronger than the first.”

Both are too deep to be retrieved with the equipment on hand, said Mazars, adding they were waiting for equipment from France to retrieve the boxes.

The crash Saturday killed all 148 people on board. Most victims were French tourists.

In Paris, the prime minister’s office

said a special submarine on loan from state-run France-Telecom could arrive in Egypt as early as Thursday. That submarine can dive to 3,610 feet.

Another small submarine and a special French Navy vessel, the Beautemps-Beaupre, could also arrive within the week to map out the sea floor in the area, including debris.

France has sent in 500 people and equipment to help Egypt with search and recovery.

The salvage team will have three to four weeks—the estimated duration of the batteries feeding the signals—to find the black boxes, said Mazars, who heads the French forces sent to with the search.

“But if we have luck, we might have them in two hours,” he said.

Families of victims began arrived Wednesday in Sharm el-Sheik, about 480 miles southeast of Cairo, for memorial services on land and sea.

BOG COMMON

Israel, Libya reportedly in secret talks

By JOSEF FEDERMAN
AP WRITER

JERUSALEM (AP)—In a sign of a possible thaw between longtime Mideast enemies, Israeli and Libyan officials reportedly held secret contacts in Europe last month, and an Israeli legislator said he met several months ago with Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi’s son.

The reports come as Gadhafi tries to remake his image after years as an international pariah. Both countries played down the reports. Libya denied the meetings took place, while circumspect Israeli officials said only that diplomatic relations are a “long way” off.

Gadhafi was once one of Israel’s harshest critics in the Arab world, at one point hosting military bases for radical Palestinian groups. In the mid-1990s, Libya expelled thousands of Palestinians in protest after Yasser Arafat entered peace talks with Israel.

But in recent years, Gadhafi has toned down his anti-Israel rhetoric as part of a larger effort to rehabilitate his international image.

Last year, Libya agreed to compensate families of the victims of the 1988 Pan Am 103 bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland, and to take responsibility for the actions of Libyan officials in the bombing. The United Nations

subsequently ended years of sanctions against Libya.

Gadhafi last month abruptly renounced efforts to build weapons of mass destruction and opened his country’s weapons-production facilities to international inspection.

That move was widely seen as a response to the U.S.-led victory in Iraq.

Still, Libya continues to be on the State Department’s list of terrorism sponsors, and U.S. sanctions against Libya remain in place.

Those sanctions, first imposed in 1986, have denied Libya access to hundreds of millions of dollars in property and bank assets, according to U.S. estimates. Peace moves toward Israel would likely be viewed favorably in Washington—and would be a significant achievement for Israel.

Peace treaties with its neighbors, Egypt and Jordan, and the ouster of Saddam Hussein’s regime in Iraq have ended many of the international threats against Israel.

Many Arab nations—from Morocco to Persian Gulf states—have informal or low-level ties with the Jewish state. Only Syria, Iran and, to a lesser extent, Libya remain as pressing international threats.

“Clearly this is part of a larger shift of Libya trying to restore itself in the good graces of the

international community,” said Bruce Maddy-Weitzman, a Libya expert at Tel Aviv University. “There is a widespread view that the road to Washington, if it doesn’t lead through Israel, it certainly can’t hurt.”

Nonetheless, he said he didn’t expect much to come of the reported contacts without progress on the currently stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts.

Israel welcomed last month’s announcement on Libya’s weapons. Foreign Ministry officials said at the time the move could lead to friendly relations.

The most recent Israeli-Libyan meeting reportedly involved Ron Prosor, a senior aide to Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom. Israeli media said it took place last month in Europe—either in Vienna or Paris.

Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Jonathan Peled would not comment on the reports of the meeting, but said Prosor accompanied Shalom on a visit to Europe in late December.

The other meeting included Ilan Shalgi, an Israeli lawmaker from the ruling coalition, and Gadhafi’s son, Saif Salam Gadhafi.

Shalgi said the meeting took place in August in an undisclosed European capital.

“(Saif) Gadhafi impressed me very much,” Shalgi told The

Associated Press Wednesday. “He is a very serious man, speaks excellent English and has considerable self-confidence.” Israeli-Libyan relations weren’t discussed, Shalgi said.

The younger Gadhafi is widely regarded as the likely successor to his father.

The Libyan Foreign Ministry said Gadhafi’s son participated at a conference in Greece last summer attended by more than 1,000 people from 15 countries, and it played down the significance of any discussions during the event.

“Many people from the region participated in that conference and there may have been Israelis and others,” spokesman Hassouna al-Shawish said. “There was a session of discussion, but he did not meet anyone from Israel.”

Israel’s Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying “it’s still a very long way down the road before Israel and Libya can establish diplomatic relations... The Libyan leader has to demonstrate in action that he is headed toward real negotiation.”

The statement said Shalom would take advantage of every opportunity to improve Israel’s relations with Arab countries, saying Wednesday’s reports were “causing Israel damage” in reaching that goal.

US accused of killing Iraqi couple

FALLUJAH, Iraq (AP)—U.S. paratroopers fired on a house in this center of anti-American resistance, killing an Iraqi couple, orphaning their five children and enraging neighbors who insisted the pair were innocent.

“This is democracy? These corpses?” neighbor Raad Majeed asked at the hospital, gesturing at the remains of the couple, on gurneys covered with bloody sheets. “It’s a crime against humanity.” The 82nd Airborne Division said its paratroopers acted after receiving “two rounds of indirect fire” around 9 p.m. Tuesday.

“Paratroopers from our Task Force engaged the point of origin with a grenade launcher and small arms, causing two personnel to flee into a nearby building, which was also engaged and destroyed,” division spokeswoman Capt. Tammy Galloway said in a statement.

“The building was searched and no weapons or personnel were found. Upon questioning, civilians in the area reported two dead personnel were taken to a nearby hospital,” the statement said.

Civilian deaths in the counterinsurgency campaign have enraged many Iraqis at a time when the U.S.-led coalition is trying to win popular support. On Wednesday, the coalition announced it was freeing 506 of 12,800 prisoners in a goodwill gesture also aimed at encouraging more Iraqis to come forward with intelligence against anti-American guerrillas.

Officials offered rewards for the capture or information confirming the deaths of 30 more wanted Iraqis, putting bounties of \$50,000 to \$200,000 on their heads. That is in addition to bounties for the 13 remaining fugitives at large from the original 55 most-wanted Iraqis whose pictures appeared on a deck of cards.

There’s a bounty of \$10 million on the head of the most-wanted man since Saddam Hussein’s capture, Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri, one of the ousted dictator’s chief lieutenants.

In Fallujah, neighbors said U.S. soldiers were on a routine search for suspects and arms when they were fired on. The paratroopers then fired at the house of Ahmed Hassan Faroud.

Associated Press Television News film showed a wall of the house collapsed into rubble of concrete bricks and two walls splattered with blood that neighbors said belonged to Hassan, 37, and his wife Suham Omar, 28. They said the couple’s five children were in bed in an adjoining room and survived Tuesday night’s attack uninjured. Fallujah is about 30 miles west of Baghdad, the capital.

CTSI
COMMON

Science & Technology

Bias keeps internet
from global
expansion

By **ANICK JESDANUN**
AP INTERNET WRITER

Rahul Dewan typed “India” into the search box of an online stock photo service, hoping to find digital images of his native country. He found only three—all of flags.

Dewan then typed “Switzerland,” a country smaller than his, and found 33, while “USA” returned 72.

His demonstration underscores a major challenge in getting the developing world online: Even with access, the Internet remains meaningless to most of the world’s population, its Web sites heavy in English and reflecting a Western tilt.

Dewan, managing director of the New Delhi software company Srijan Technologies, ultimately settled for Western faces and hands on his Web site, after failing to find Indian images he could use or a similar photo service catering to Indians.

So much for promoting his company as a homegrown business.

“They probably think this company belongs to somebody in the USA,” Dewan lamented at last week’s U.N. information technology summit. “Everything caters to the Western audience.”

People and organizations who work on connecting villages and schools throughout the world say their efforts only begin with providing Internet access and teaching people how to use computers.

There must be compelling information, in native languages and mindful of local traditions and distinctions—such as audio and illustrations for the illiterate.

“Getting technology into people’s hands is one thing. Getting people to use it is key,” said Daniel Wagner, director of the International Literacy Institute at the University of Pennsylvania.

Much of the Web these days is built by private ventures—mostly in the West and mostly targeting where they believe the money is: the industrialized world.

As a result, there’s little specific to developing countries, which remain largely offline. According to the U.N. International Telecommunication Union, 1.5 billion villages have no access at all to phones or the Internet, and 70 percent of Internet users live in countries that make up only 16 percent of the world’s population.

Some delegates to last week’s U.N. World Summit on the Information Society complained that even when

Web sites aren’t in English, they are usually in French, Spanish or one of a handful of other languages common in the industrialized world.

Adama Samassekou, Mali’s former minister of education, said languages spoken by millions of Africans, including Mandingo and Kiswahili, are virtually nonexistent online.

With more than 95 percent of Pakistan’s literacy base in Urdu, the Internet is relevant to only the country’s elite 5 percent, said Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, Pakistan’s minister of information and technology.

The solution involves more than translating English sites.

To address illiteracy, South Africa is developing speech recognition, text-to-speech and other voice technologies, starting in Zulu. An open source model will let others adapt the tools for additional languages at little cost.

Sherrin Issac, a policy director at South Africa’s Department of Science and Technology, said many existing, Western technologies are inadequate—one voice compression algorithm, for instance, drops some “clicks” in conversations, changing the meaning of words.

Bulgaria, South Korea and other countries, meanwhile, are producing

government sites in native languages. But Internet users often must type English addresses to reach them.

One Korean company, Netpia, has developed a proprietary keyword system, so a Korean typing “Yahoo” in that language would automatically get the Korean version of Yahoo Inc. Netpia executive Jason Sohn said some sites saw traffic triple after using such keywords.

The Internet’s key oversight body also is studying domain names entirely in non-English characters—instead of requiring “.com” or another English suffix.

Other challenges remain.

The Canadian government still must adapt its internal search engine to accommodate online materials in Inuktitut, the Inuit language. English and French speakers can find synonyms like “fast” and “quick” in one search, but extending that capability to Inuktitut first requires creating an electronic dictionary.

In recent months, Microsoft Corp. began a local language program to help universities and governments adapt its software to more languages. King Letsie III of Lesotho, meanwhile, is promoting open source and free software as a way to let countries adapt

tools for their domestic needs.

A desire also exists to ensure that Web sites are culturally relevant—not limited to white faces, U.S. dollars and Western values. That, for instance, could mean write-ups in support of marrying cousins, a union rejected in the industrialized world.

Jerry Kennelly, whose Irish-based photo service Stockbyte was the site Dewan had demonstrated, acknowledged that only a fifth of people featured there are non-Caucasian, reflecting marketing demands.

“We’re not in the business of running a charity,” Kennelly said. “The minute we see a justifiable demand, we will be on it like a dog out of the traps at the greyhound races.”

Until then, the task of diversifying content has largely fallen on groups like Viva Rio, which has trained residents of Brazil’s urban slums, the favelas, to write about themselves, countering the news about crime and other problems dominant in Western outlets.

“The point is to produce more content that is useful,” said Bernardo Sorj, an adviser to Viva Rio. “If people go on the Internet and do not find good content for themselves, then they go to pornography.”

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Season's Greetings: They're in the e-cards

By **DON OLDENBURG**
THE WASHINGTON POST

Here it is just before Christmas and you didn't get around to sending out holiday cards, did you? Well, send season's e-card greetings!

"Internet cards are quick and easy and a good way to buzz someone," says District of Columbia resident Antonia Balazs, 36, who began sending her Christmas e-cards to friends last week.

As a paid subscriber at American Greetings' electronic-card Web site, Balazs has unlimited access to thousands of e-cards for all occasions throughout the year. She regularly sends e-cards for birthdays and thank-you notes. And now that it's Christmastime, she's sending mostly e-cards—though her short list gets store-bought paper cards.

"A paper card requires more time and effort. It is more thoughtful," says Balazs. "Close friends and family get that thoughtfulness. Others might not. At least this way, I've followed through in some fashion."

But holiday e-cards face uphill sledding against unyielding traditions this time of year. Seems a Merry Techie Christmas isn't everyone's vision of sugarplum fairies.

According to the Washington-based Greeting Card Association, a trade group representing the \$7.5 billion industry, more than 60 percent of the 7 billion cards sold each year will be Christmas cards. A GCA survey found that 92 percent of consumers planned to purchase paper greeting cards this holiday season; 76 percent said they would send out 20 or more.

"E-cards are another avenue or supplement, but they don't replace



traditional paper cards," says GCA's executive director, Valerie Cooper. "E-cards aren't quite as special as when someone takes the time to send you an individual card."

According to Hallmark, during all of last year people sent 88 million free e-cards for various occasions from its online site—and 946,000 of those were a last-minute flurry on Christmas Eve.

"People aren't convinced they have the same desired effect," says Hallmark spokeswoman Deidre Parkes. "Seventy-three percent of people surveyed said they send holiday cards because they know how good it feels to receive them. ... That doesn't necessarily happen with e-card sending."

E-cards don't stack up against paper cards for other reasons. Some recipients have slow online computer connections, which can make e-cards frustrating. And

spam filters and virus worries are to e-cards what dogs are to postal carriers.

The biggest selling point for e-cards has been that they were free. But this year most e-card Web sites shifted to subscription services—\$10 to \$20 a year—cooling some users' interest, says Parkes. Hallmark.com still boasts a huge selection of free e-cards—including 70 free holiday e-cards, many of them animated action scenes with holiday music.

"Postage isn't getting any cheaper!" says Jean Barto, a retired Army Reserve officer in Newport News, Va., who has sent 50 paper Christmas cards this year and, just last week, a dozen or so free e-cards. But she thinks the convenience argument for e-cards is overblown.

"When I send out the online cards, it takes nearly as long to do so as to write out and address a traditional card," says Barto.

But e-cards come in handy for people whose snail-mail addresses she can't find, she says. "There might be some

people on my traditional card list that may migrate to the online list—if they fail to send me a card back this year."

But e-cards' biggest obstacle is tradition. "Americans at Christmas are very traditional. Sending paper cards is a ritual steeped in that tradition," says Tina Benavides, executive director of card planning at American Greetings Corp.

People line their mantels with them, string them across doorways and hang them on their Christmas trees. "You could do that with (printed-out) e-cards but realistically you might not want to," says Benavides, who sends e-cards mostly to her dot-com friends. "I could never send my mother an e-card. But if you know someone who is into high-tech, then why not?"

And that's the niche approach e-card sellers are taking.

"Things are starting to really ramp up," says Sharon Schneider, senior vice president and general manager for



greetings at Bluemount.com, AmericanGreetings.com and e-greetings.com—all subscriber sites owned by American Greetings.

She says e-card sender demographics skew younger, more male and edgier than traditional greeting card buyers. The most popular Christmas e-card last year at Americangreetings.com was "Santa Boogie"—a cinematic Claymation-style e-card of a rotund St. Nick rockin' out on a rooftop. On e-greetings.com, flatulence e-cards are big sellers even in the holiday season. "A lot of it truly is all about the recipient," she says. "You pick the product that meets your needs."

Especially Wednesday—the busiest e-card day of the year. "The number of e-cards that will be sent will be in the millions," Schneider predicts. "It's a nice solution that lets people know you are thinking of them—even at the last minute."



By **JOHN M. MORAN**
THE HARTFORD COURANT

If you're at all like me, you're hoping gadgets will be among your holiday gifts this season. And why not? Computer equipment and other electronics have been staples of holiday gift-giving for years.

So let's suppose you're lucky enough to get a new PC or cell phone or some other gadget. What are you going to do with the old stuff?

That's an increasingly important and vexing question. As our technology gets replaced, we're generating mountains of obsolete gear that needs to be disposed of.

And I do mean mountains. In the five years between 2000 and 2005, the Environmental Protection Agency estimates that as many as 250 million PCs will be junked.

Don't forget cell phones. Experts predict that new laws allowing consumers to keep their existing phone numbers when switching wireless carriers could prompt a wave of changes. Those consumers who do switch carriers are likely to switch phones, too, ditching millions of cell phones in the process.

Trouble is, much of that stuff contains hazardous materials that shouldn't just be thrown in the trash along with your food packaging and used napkins. Hazardous substances—such as lead, mercury, cadmium and barium—are common in computer equipment and other electronics.

Unfortunately, the electronics industry has only begun coming to grips with the problems created by obsolete technology. Recycling programs are few and often expensive, because there

are more gadgets needing to be recycled than there is demand for recycled parts.

Those of you who are determined to recycle—and good for you, if you are—can visit Electronics Recycling at www.electronicrecycling.net or information on where and how to dispose of old gadgets.

Tom Gaffey, the director of recycling for the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority, urged residents not to throw junk electronics in with the regular refuse.

"Undoubtedly thousands of people will be buying new electronic equipment to replace older equipment over the holidays," Gaffey said. "Our message to the folks out there is to hold onto it until the next recycling."

Perhaps an even better solution is to find your stuff a new home. Identifying someone who can still use

equipment that no longer suits you has a double benefit. Not only do you avoid polluting the environment, but you give someone else a chance to enjoy technology that otherwise would go to waste.

Some nonprofit organizations have taken this approach, though their challenge is difficult. By the time some people upgrade their computer equipment, the old stuff isn't good for much.

All these alternatives, however, are Band-Aids on a festering problem. What's needed is a comprehensive, cradle-to-grave solution for technology and the hazardous substances associated with it.

Computer and electronics makers should build products that can be upgraded more easily, so consumers don't have to throw away the whole

machine when they want to improve one part of it.

The manufacturers should work to limit the amount of hazardous materials used in their products. And where those materials are essential, the hazardous parts should be arranged so that they can be easily removed by recyclers.

Government can help by promoting recycling and sponsoring collection drives that give the public a convenient way of disposing of their technology properly.

And finally, consumers have a big role to play by demanding that all the above parties contribute to a solution. Lean toward "green" technology, go the extra mile to recycle, ask your representatives when more recycling programs will be started.

A white Christmas is fine, but when it comes to technology, let's make it a green new year.

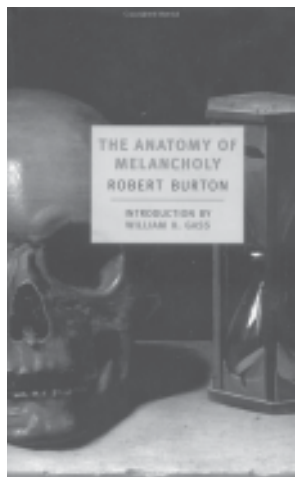
Life & Style

Ten works with one common trait—*Uniqueness*

By **TIM PAGE**
THE WASHINGTON POST

The word “unique” has been so debased by overuse that some publications have all but forbidden it from their pages. Still, here are 10 works of art that have a pretty good claim on the dread epithet. They don’t have much more than that in common. Some are complex and vastly ambitious, others stark, simple, almost primal. A few have had an influence, usually baleful, on later artists; most, in their sheer, flinty strangeness, have remained monoliths, as mysterious in their way as Stonehenge.

If there is any tie that binds, it is their un-repeatability. It is impossible to imagine a sequel to any of them; they create new forms, live out their lives and then break their own molds. Indeed, it has been argued that the very uniqueness of some of the works on this list is a sign of sterility, that the avenues of expression they seemed to open have usually proven to be cul-de-sacs. Still, if you want these particular goods, there’s only one place to get them.



■ **Robert Burton: “The Anatomy of Melancholy” (1621).** If you were to cross the essays of Montaigne with the case studies of Sigmund Freud, you might come up with something like “The Anatomy of Melancholy.” What is this crazy book, exactly? In truth, “The Anatomy of Melancholy” is

about whatever crossed Burton’s mind, which—since it was an obsessive, capacious and remarkably erudite mind—was just about everything. The first edition had about 350,000 words, but the author kept adding to it throughout his life and it finally came in at just about half a million. Don’t try to read the “Anatomy” straight through: Instead, take the time to make friends with it—with its passions, prejudices and wildly ornate style—and then return to it again and again, as people have for centuries.



■ **Ludwig van Beethoven: “Grosse Fuge” (1826).** Beethoven originally composed this wild, unfettered and unprecedented creation as the finale for his

String Quartet in B-flat, Op. 130. But his publisher objected: He thought it too difficult and overwhelming to conclude what was already an unusually long composition.

And so, although Beethoven’s revised finale

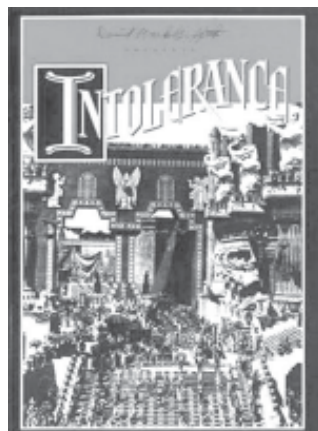
still concludes most performances of the B-flat Quartet, its unruly predecessor has been recognized for its own merits. Perhaps Igor Stravinsky put it best when he called the work “this absolutely contemporary piece of music that will be contemporary forever.” Almost two centuries after it was composed, it remains as grating, grueling, aggressive and magnificent a statement as the romantic repertoire has to offer. You will never grow used to it.



■ **Alessandro Moreschi: “The Last Castrato” (1902-1904).** By the time Alessandro Moreschi was born in 1858, the practice of castrating

boys on the verge of puberty to keep their soprano voices intact was dying out quickly. And yet he had a full and varied career, entering the Sistine Chapel Choir in 1883, becoming its conductor in 1898, singing in universities, drawing rooms and clubs and—in 1902 and 1904—making the sole recordings bequeathed to us by any castrato.

He sings with a plaintive, eerily haunting bleat, with some brilliant high notes and an occasional sob. The sound, by the way, is not at all feminine. Rather, Moreschi sounds like what he was—a damaged, middle-aged boy soprano, one of the saddest things in the world.



■ **D.W. Griffith: “Intolerance” (1916).** “Intolerance” must be ranked among those admirable, original creations that, in the final analysis, simply don’t work very well. Longer and more expensive

than any preceding film, “Intolerance” attempted to tell simultaneously four stories—the fall of Babylon, the Crucifixion of Christ, the St. Bartholomew’s Day Massacre of the Huguenots in France in 1572, and a gritty fiction of crime and punishment in an early-20th-century American city. Director Griffith crosscuts from story to story, century to century in an attempt to trace a vague notion of intolerance through the ages. The sole link among the four is a dim, mysterious, recurring shot of Lillian Gish rocking a cradle, an apparent reference to the director’s beloved Walt Whitman and his poem “Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking.” The effect is arresting but exhausting, and ultimately impossible for most viewers to assimilate.

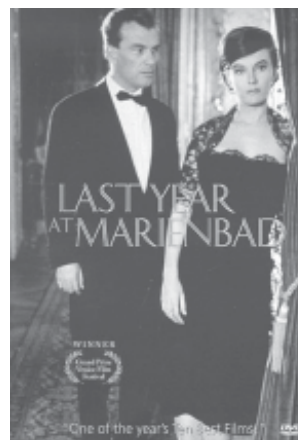
■ **James Joyce: “Ulysses” (1922).** Joyce’s second novel is the determinedly subjective summary of



little “happens” to the characters; the novel embraces and exalts the messiness of life itself.

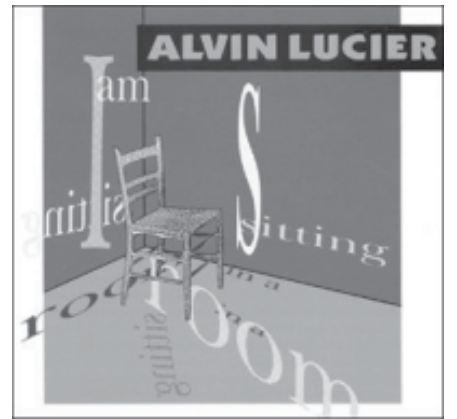
In the past, authors had aspired to use ordinary language to say extraordinary things; Joyce ingeniously turned that maxim on its head. “Ulysses” is filled with glorious wordplay, and although deeply rooted in the classics, it is the definitive modernist novel, as Joyce invents words, explodes paragraphs, explores new manners of narrative and concludes with a rapt, 40-page erotic reverie couched in a single open-ended sentence.

■ **John Cage: “4’ 33” (1952).** Cage (1912-1992) was one of the most whimsical and venturesome of American composers. He wrote pieces for everything from toy piano to computer, and he was the inventor of the “prepared piano”—a standard-issue piano that was completely transformed by the introduction of nuts, bolts, screws, erasers, rubber bands and other material between its strings, until it sounded like a percussion orchestra. But Cage’s most famous composition—“4’ 33” —required no instruments whatsoever. The performer was simply instructed to sit silently onstage for the duration of the piece—4 minutes and 33 seconds—while the audience listened to whatever was taking place around it. But what actually happens in the piece? Well, nothing, of course—nothing and everything.



■ **Alain Resnais: “Last Year at Marienbad” (1962).** The early criticism of this staggeringly original work makes for amusing reading. Nobody got it. Resnais gave us film as music—formal, reiterative and forever abstract.

Follow it as you would a string quartet, a ballet or a mysteriously animated painting that changes ever so slightly as you watch; attempts to discern a plot or make an emotional connection with the characters are doomed to failure. By design, the characters have no more “humanity” than figures on a chessboard, variables in an equation or dummies in a store window. Sentences, motifs and whole scenes are repeated obsessively, rather in the same way Liszt and Grieg bring back their best tunes in their finales.



■ **Alvin Lucier: “I Am Sitting in a Room” (1970).** One afternoon, composer Lucier sat in his Connecticut living room, read a halting speech into one tape recorder, then played that recording back into another tape recorder, then played that dub back into yet another tape recorder, and repeated the process until there were 32 versions of the speech. You know what happens when you make a photocopy of a photocopy of a photocopy? Well, imagine continuing the process until all semblance of the original was distorted beyond recognition.

That’s pretty much the process of “I Am Sitting in a Room”: Eventually, natural overtones obscure the words, and the speech turns into a sort of shadow music. What will initially seem dull and arty evolves into an eerie and arrestingly beautiful experience. Words become music, sound becomes shimmer, and a natural process of acoustics is demonstrated in the most haunting and elegant manner, as Lucier, on tape, describes exactly what is happening.



■ **Thomas Pynchon: “Gravity’s Rainbow” (1973).** On one level, the “story” of this vast novel can be told in a single sentence: a missile—a genuine, verifiable WMD—is fired on the first page and comes down on the last. True enough, but one might as well call “Moby-

Dick” a fish story. At 760 pages, “Gravity’s Rainbow” is both grim and hilarious, with myriad tangled plots and subplots that all conclude in mid-sentence as the Domsday missile falls and the convoluted little lives, dreams and industries of its 300-odd characters and (not so incidentally) the lives of the narrator and the reader as well are obliterated.



■ **Maya Lin: The Vietnam Veterans Memorial (1982).** There it is, set off to one side of the Lincoln Memorial, the darkest shadow on the Mall. As you descend into the memorial and come face to face with the names of more than 58,000 men and women who either died in the Vietnam conflict or are officially listed as missing in action, the enormity of the loss becomes overpowering. Designed by a young woman who was then a senior at Yale University, the Memorial has next to nothing to do with most war memorials. It is made from black granite, instead of white marble. It does not rise from the earth but descends into it. It offers no comfortable religious sentiments, no exaltations of honor and duty and sacrifice, nothing but names and names and names.

New design for WTC memorial unveiled

By AMY WESTFELDT
AP WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—A revised design for the World Trade Center memorial was unveiled Wednesday and includes a subtle tribute to the rescue workers and an underground room where visitors can see twisted steel beams, a crushed fire truck and other artifacts from Sept. 11.

The additions received a warm response—a distinct change in the often contentious process of remembering the nearly 3,000 victims of the 2001 terrorist attacks.

“These revisions show that the Sept. 11 families and the general public have finally been given a voice in this process,” said Coalition of 9/11 Families executive board member Patricia Reilly, whose sister died in the attack.

Construction on the memorial is expected to begin by the end of this year.

One of the changes to Michael Arad’s “Reflecting Absence” memorial addressed the sensitive issue of whether rescue workers should be singled out in some way.

In the new design, Arad places all of the victims’ names randomly around two reflecting pools, a visual reminder of the “haphazard brutality of the attacks,” but he designates rescue workers by listing their ranks and agency’s insignia alongside their names.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly and Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta said they were satisfied with the tribute.

“This is a simple, elegant, quite

dignified way to remember,” said Scoppetta, whose department lost 343 members when the twin 110-story towers collapsed.

The revisions also add a forest of trees, benches and grass to what was once open space and place a cultural center at the northeast corner of the site.

Underground, an interpretive center will include lecture rooms, a research library and pieces from the ruins. Some critics of the original design complained that it did not get across the horror and violence of the attacks.

The redesign also features a ramp leading down to the museum that passes exposed parts of the slurry wall, the last remnant of the tower complex. Family members had pushed to use the wall in the design.

The memorial also will pay tribute

to the six victims of the 1993 bombing of the trade center.

The changes unveiled by Arad and his architect partner Peter Walker were worked out in emotional meetings with family members and in sessions with the 13-member jury that announced the winning design Jan. 6.

“Every way you find to do this satisfies some, but causes pain and anguish to another,” said Arad, whose voice cracked several times during his presentation Wednesday.

The jury negotiated the changes with Arad after his design was selected from 5,201 submissions sent in from 63 countries and 49 states.

“It’s going to help people come to terms,” said juror Maya Lin, designer of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. “It’s going to bring us all hope.”

This is an artist’s rendering of an aerial view, from the southeast looking north, of the revised design for the World Trade Center Memorial, “Reflecting Absence” by Michael Arad/Peter Walker, released in New York Wednesday Jan. 14, 2004.

AP

Pete Rose book will top best-seller list

NEW YORK (AP)—It may not get him in the Hall of Fame, but Pete Rose’s “Pete Rose: My Prison Without Bars” will claim a singular spot in the publishing world: No. 1 on The New York Times’ list of best sellers.

Rose’s book, released last Thursday with a first printing of 500,000, will top the Times’ nonfiction hardcover chart coming out Sunday, Jan. 25, reflecting the week “My Prison Without Bars” went on sale.

In 1989, Rose was banished from baseball for betting on the game, a charge he acknowledged for the first time in his new book. Rose, the all-time hits leader, is ineligible for the Hall of Fame and officials have said reinstatement is impossible until he admits that he gambles.

Earlier this week, baseball commissioner Bud Selig said he had not read the book and declined comment on what he might do.

Rose’s publisher, Rodale Press, said actual sales figures were not available Wednesday. According to Nielsen BookScan, which tracks industry sales, “My Prison Without Bars” sold just under 21,000 copies in its first three days.

Nielsen claims to report around 70-75 percent of total sales.

FCC asks to boost fines for obscenities

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Communications Commission Chairman Michael Powell asked Congress Wednesday for a tenfold increase in the amount of fines the panel can levy against broadcasters for indecent or obscene programming.

Powell said the current maximum fine of \$27,500 per incident was not enough to persuade broadcasters to watch their language.

“Some of these fines are peanuts,” Powell told a National Press Club luncheon. “They’re just a cost of doing business. That has to change.”

The two largest fines were \$1.7 million against Infinity Broadcasting in 1995 to settle several cases against Howard Stern, and \$357,000 in October

against Infinity for a radio segment in which a couple was said to be having sex in New York’s St. Patrick’s Cathedral.

Powell’s comments came a day after he asked his fellow commissioners to overturn a much-criticized decision that an expletive uttered by the musician Bono on a network program was not obscene.

During last year’s NBC broadcast of the Golden Globes Awards, the lead singer of the Irish rock group U2 said “this is really, really, f———brilliant.”

The FCC’s enforcement bureau ruled in October that the comment was not indecent or obscene because Bono used the word as an adjective, not to describe a sexual act. “The performer used the word...as an adjective or

expletive to emphasize an exclamation,” the bureau said.

Powell circulated a proposed ruling to the four other commissioners on Tuesday. He needs the votes of two of the four to overturn the decision.

The enforcement bureau had rejected complaints from the Parents Television Council and more than 200 people, most of them associated with the conservative advocacy group, who accused dozens of television stations of violating restrictions on obscene broadcasts by airing portions of the awards program last January.

Under FCC rules, broadcasters cannot air obscene material at any time and cannot air indecent material between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m.

By JIM SHEA
The Hartford Courant

Shea is a columnist for
The Courant.



Mastering the art of microwave meal-making

I tried to make a cake once, but it didn’t work out.

And it wasn’t just all the sweet green icing flowing down,

Or that someone left the cake out in the rain,

Or that I didn’t think that I could take it, ‘cause it took so long to bake it,

Or that I’d never have that recipe again.

Oh, nooooooooooooo!

Although those were certainly factors.

The reason I don’t cook is because I don’t see the point. It involves slaving over a hot stove for hours, and in the end, no one appreciates it one little bit. (Wow, did I just sound like my wife or what?)

Anyway, when I say I don’t cook, I don’t mean to suggest that I am incapable of whipping something up for myself when I have to.

I don’t want to brag, but I am an accomplished—in some circles, acclaimed—microwaver, my signature dish being the leftover.

Still, there is a difference between possessing this skill and actually cooking.

Cooking involves taking varied ingredients and putting them together in such a manner that not only tastes good but also results in no unpleasant side affects, such as a slow painful death or, worse still, a case of the dreaded green-apple wind sprints.

That I am willing to admit that I have absolutely no cooking skills makes me fairly unusual among men.

I’m not saying there aren’t men who can cook, rather that most men have a much higher opinion of their cooking skills than is warranted.

The average male believes he has achieved four-star-chef status simply because he can turn red meat brown.

In truth, male prowess in the kitchen is a lot more like Dan Aykroyd’s Julia Child than Emeril.

I think the main reason men do not take naturally to cooking is because the process involves adhering to recipes, and using a recipe is a lot like following directions.

Not only do men refrain from asking for directions, they don’t much care for following them either.

When we are called upon to put something together, we usually just lay out all the parts and then try to get them to look like the picture.

This system works fine with furniture or kids’ toys but not so well if the finished product is a soufflé.

Which is why I still say that, as far as men in the kitchen go, the most significant breakthrough since the invention of self-starting charcoal is the microwave oven.

Now, if they could just tweak it a bit so you don’t have to go out and buy a new one every time somebody—no names—leaves a spoon in the soup bowl....

Indies mark some firsts at this Sundance

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—Opening night will mark some firsts for the Sundance Film Festival, the nation's top showcase for independent movies.

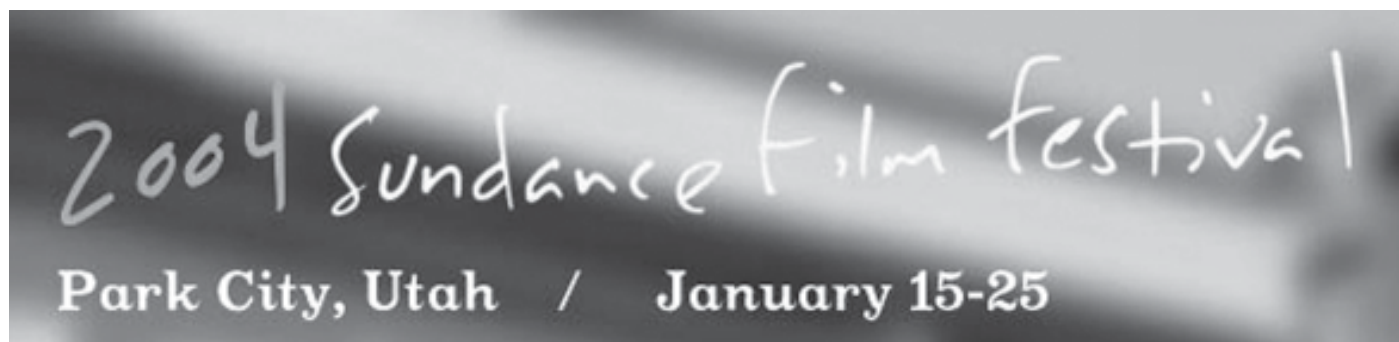
For the first time, the curtain rises Thursday with the premiere film screening in the festival's hometown, the ski resort of Park City, rather than in nearby Salt Lake City, where the opening-night movie has traditionally played.

For the first time, this year's opening flick is a documentary, the surfing chronicle "Riding Giants," instead of a fictional film.

And for the first time, the 11-day festival will feature a film starring its top man, Robert Redford, who plays a kidnapped businessman in "The Clearing," which also features Helen Mirren and Willem Dafoe. Redford's Sundance Institute oversees the festival.

Redford had been reluctant to have "The Clearing" at Sundance, worrying it might present a conflict of interest, said Geoffrey Gilmore, Sundance festival director.

"What he did with 'The Clearing' was act in a small, low-budget film for the first time in



many years," Gilmore said. "I got a chance to see it, thought it was absolutely right for Sundance, then had to convince him it was something good for the film, good for him and good for the festival."

Other prominent offerings among Sundance's 137 feature films are Julianne Moore and Matthew Broderick's "Marie and Bruce," a tale of a disintegrating relationship; "The Butterfly Effect," with Ashton Kutcher as a man who learns he can undo the past; "Iron Jawed Angels," starring Hilary Swank and Frances O'Connor as leaders of the women's suffrage movement in 1912; DMX and David Arquette's "Never Die Alone," about a drug dealer's return to his home turf; "The Woodsman," with Kevin Bacon as a child molester trying to rebuild his life after prison; and the Martin Luther King Jr.

documentary "Citizen King."

The opening-night film was moved to Park City because it's the festival headquarters, where most of the movies screen and other events take place, said Gilmore. Many festival films will continue to screen in Salt Lake City.

The surfing angle of "Riding Giants" nicely complements the sensibilities of Park City's ski industry and the many film fans who take time out to hit the slopes during the festival, Gilmore said.

"Riding Giants" is directed by Stacy Peralta, who made "Dogtown and Z-Boys," a skateboarding documentary that was a Sundance hit in 2001.

"For the Park City crowd, this is the ideal way to open the festival," Gilmore said. "That surf culture is something I felt really spoke to the Park City community. It's a movie that

epitomizes what independent film is all about. Surfers riding these big waves, taking risks without the hope of real rewards, the same as independent film is all about risk-taking without hope of real rewards. Metaphorically, it's perfect."

With hits and acclaimed films such as "In the Bedroom," "The Brothers McMullen," "Clerks" and "The Blair Witch Project" coming out of past Sundance festivals, the event has grown into a hybrid for indie filmmakers, celebrity watchers and Hollywood dealmakers.

Small distributors and boutique subsidiaries for major studios showcase upcoming films, trotting out stars for interviews and question-and-answer sessions with audiences.

While Sundance's focus remains on American independent film, the lineup has grown more eclectic as the

festival expanded its world-cinema slate and added an international documentary program.

Distributor ThinkFilm is showcasing "Bright Young Things," a British movie the company had not considered a likely Sundance flick after picking it up at last fall's Toronto International Film Festival. The directing debut of actor Stephen Fry, "Bright Young Things" is based on an Evelyn Waugh novel about hedonistic Brits living the high life just before World War II.

"Bright Young Things" is so champagne, whereas Sundance is so beer," said Mark Urman, ThinkFilm head of distribution. "We didn't feel it was the sort of film that might get attention at Sundance. It isn't about new, young, edgy American things.

"Having said that, it is a world-class, ultra-prestigious film festival that's captured the imagination of the world, so what

better to place to showcase it?"

Distributors also scout Sundance for the next Quentin Tarantino or Kevin Smith and flesh out their schedules with film acquisitions. Recent films bought at Sundance include "You Can Count on Me," "In the Bedroom," last year's audience award winner "The Station Agent" and "Blair Witch," the one megahit Sundance has produced.

With the family drama "The Best Thief in the World," one of 16 films competing for Sundance's top dramatic prize, writer-director Jacob Kornbluth has the best of both worlds in a crowded indie market where most filmmakers never know if their movies will see the light of day outside the festival circuit.

The film was financed by Showtime, where it will eventually air. But Kornbluth also has the opportunity to land it with a distributor that will put the film in theaters before its TV debut.

"It is a pretty good spot to be in," said Kornbluth, whose previous Sundance entry was the comedy "Haiku Tunnel," co-directed with his brother, Josh. "You feel you have all the upside of a potential theatrical release without that sinking feeling that maybe nobody will ever see the film."

John McEnroe to have nightly talk show

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former tennis great John McEnroe—who's done his share of shouting in the past—will join the world of television talk this spring with a prime-time topical show on CNBC.

The network said Wednesday McEnroe's show will air at 10 p.m. EST, directly after comedian Dennis Miller's talk show, which premieres later this month.

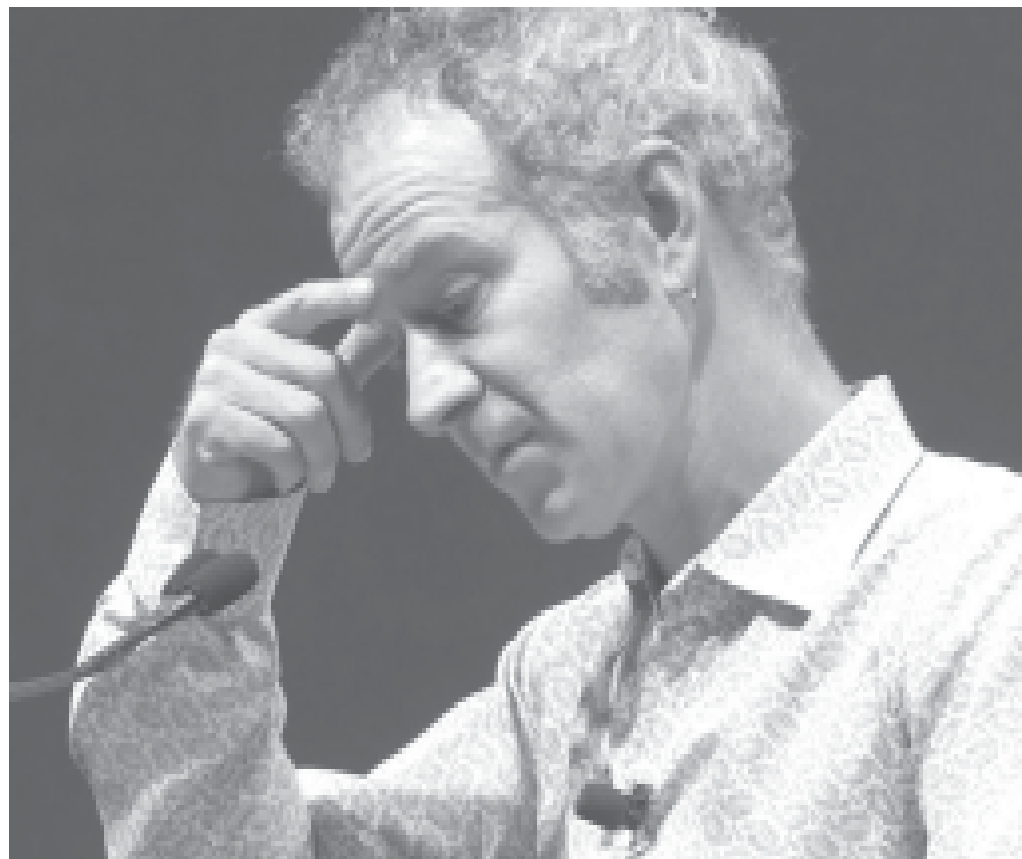
The combative McEnroe, known for his on-court temper tantrums during his playing days, has proven to be an adept broadcaster with wide-ranging interests, said Pamela Thomas-Graham, CNBC president.

"He's a rebel in many ways," she said. "I think that's fun for our viewers. A lot of our viewers are entrepreneurs and they like that rebellious attitude in him."

McEnroe will keep all of his broadcast commitments as a tennis commentator, and CNBC may telecast his shows on location from the sites of tennis tournaments to accommodate him, she said.

The former tennis star has tried his hand at other television ventures, notably as host of a short-lived ABC game show, "The Chair," in 2002.

"It's something that I've hoped for for a long time—to do my own thing and do something different from the world of tennis," McEnroe said.



Tennis legend John McEnroe pauses as he speaks at Nike's 2003 annual meeting of shareholders in Portland, Ore., in this Monday, Sept. 22, 2003 file photo. AP

No word yet on whether any of his guests will be shouted down with his famous retort to a referee, "You cannot be serious!" (It was also the title of his autobiography.)

Struggling CNBC, whose fortunes as a network nose-dived about the same time as the stock market, is trying to revive its

prime time. CNBC runs business-oriented programming during the day but seeks a wider audience at night.

It hasn't had a signature nighttime program since Geraldo Rivera left for Fox News Channel in 2001.

Thomas-Graham said she wanted a prime-time lineup that

would be "more fun" and "unpredictable."

CNBC's one-hour general newscast, with John Siegenthaler replacing Brian Williams, will air at 8 p.m. EST, followed by Miller and McEnroe. Current prime-time shows, "The Capital Report" and "Kudlow & Cramer," will be shown earlier in the day.

Another Oscar screener movie found online

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A second movie sent to Oscar voters has turned up on the Internet.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced the discovery of an unauthorized Internet copy of the Tom Cruise film "The Last Samurai" on Tuesday, a day after announcing a probe into an unauthorized copy of "Something's Gotta Give," starring Diane Keaton and Jack Nicholson.

Both Internet postings were setbacks for the anti-piracy campaign by the film industry, which has estimated that unauthorized movie copying costs it \$3.5 billion a year.

The Motion Picture Association of America, which represents studios, last year banned the distribution of so-called "screener" DVDs and videotapes over concerns about bootlegging, but it partly lifted the ban after complaints from filmmakers, producers and independent production companies.

The studios changed the policy in October to allow the shipment of encoded videocassettes to Academy Award voters only. Two months later, a federal judge granted a temporary injunction blocking the screener ban after independent production companies sued, arguing the policy put them at a disadvantage for awards.

The academy said that Warner Bros. had not identified

a source of the Internet copy of "The Last Samurai." The movie, an East-West culture clash set in 19th century Japan, was in the top ten at the box office last week and has earned more than \$97 million since it hit theaters last month.

Actor Carmine Caridi was identified by the Los Angeles Times as the intended recipient of the "Something's Gotta Give" copy that surfaced on the Internet last week. He declined comment to the newspaper.

Malcolm Cassell, Caridi's agent, said the 69-year-old "NYPD Blue" actor had hired an attorney and was "mightily embarrassed," though "vague and not forthcoming" when asked how a copy of the movie sent to him may have surfaced online.

The 5,803 Academy members eligible to vote this year were required to sign forms promising to protect their screener tapes. About 80 percent of them returned the forms, which include a stipulation that a violation is grounds for expulsion from the academy.

Academy members include actors, producers, directors and writers as well as public relations specialists, sound technicians and other industry executives, artists and craftspeople.

The Oscar nominations will be announced Jan. 27 and awards presented Feb. 29.

WALLACE

Britney believes in 'sanctity' of marriage

NEW YORK (AP)—Britney Spears says the excitement of Las Vegas is partly to blame for her recent 55-hour marriage to her childhood friend, Jason Alexander.

"I do believe in the sanctity of marriage, I totally do," Spears told MTV's "Total Request Live" in a telephone interview Wednesday. "(But) I was in Vegas, and it took over me."

Spears and Alexander, both 22, married at a 24-hour chapel early in the morning on Jan. 3. The wedding was annulled a little over two days later, but



Singers Britney Spears, left, and Madonna kiss during the opening performance of the MTV Video Music Awards at New York's Radio City Music Hall in this Aug. 28, 2003, file photo.

not before it made headlines around the world.

The pop superstar says she can't understand the fuss.

"We landed on Mars that day—why aren't they talking about that?" she asked, referring to the Mars Rover launched by NASA.

Spears said she and Alexander "hit it off completely," but when asked whether she had true feelings for him, she declined to answer.

"That's a personal question," she said, before changing the subject to promote her new video, "Toxic."

White Stripes lead singer pleads innocent

DETROIT (AP)—White Stripes lead singer Jack White, who's accused of repeatedly punching the lead singer of another band in the face, pleaded innocent Wednesday to a misdemeanor aggravated assault charge and was ordered to stand trial on March 9.

The Dec. 13 fight between White and Von Bondies lead singer Jason Stollsteimer began shortly before midnight at the Majestic Theater Center, where both men were in the audience for another concert.

Stollsteimer, 25, of Detroit, told police that White punched him seven times in the face. Police said Stollsteimer's right eye was bruised and swollen, and he was bleeding from his nose.

White, also of Detroit, went to the police after the fight and gave a statement saying he struck Stollsteimer in self-defense.

A message seeking comment was left Wednesday with White's attorney, Wally Piszczatowski.

White faces punishment ranging from no jail time to a maximum of a year in prison and a \$1,000 fine if convicted.

He and drummer Meg White, who make up the White Stripes, are nominated together for three Grammy Awards: album of the year and alternative music album for "Elephant," and best rock performance by a duo or group with vocal for "Seven Nation Army." The song also earned Jack White a solo nomination for best rock song.

White also has a small role as a singer in the film "Cold Mountain," starring Nicole Kidman, Jude Law and Renee Zellweger, which is in theaters now. He contributed a handful of songs to the soundtrack.



White



Jennifer Aniston, left, one of the stars of the new film "Along Came Polly," arrives with her husband, actor Brad Pitt, at the premiere of the film at Grauman's Chinese Theater in Los Angeles, Monday, Jan. 12, 2004.

Aniston, mom no closer to reconciling

NEW YORK (AP)—Jennifer Aniston says she and her mother, who've been estranged since 1999, aren't much closer to reconciling.

"I never thought my mom would not know my husband," Aniston says, referring to Brad Pitt, in an interview airing on ABC's "Primetime Thursday."

The actress says she and Nancy Aniston haven't been close since her mother granted an interview to a tabloid television show and wrote a book about her relationship with the "Friends" star.

"She made a mistake ... I don't think she knew any better—obviously," Aniston says.

As for patching things up, the 34-year-old actress says, "I've definitely tried, I made the efforts, and I've sort of started ...

Pitt, Jolie to star in film

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)—The Hanging Lake tunnels in Glenwood Canyon will star alongside Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie in an upcoming action film.

Scenes for the Regency film "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" will be shot at the tunnels, which beat out various other locations, including one in West Virginia, said Marianne Virgili, executive director of the Glenwood Springs Chamber Resort Association.

"The beauty of the canyon sold them," Virgili said of the filmmakers' choice. "It's breathtaking."

The film, scheduled for release later this year, features Pitt and Jolie as a couple in a failing marriage who are also covert assassins hired to kill each other. Doug Liman ("Go," "The Bourne Identity") is the director.

Virgili said she didn't know whether Pitt and Jolie would be at the shooting in Glenwood Canyon because a duplicate set has been built in California.

you know, it's that stubborn thing of, 'Well, I tried ... I tried enough. Now it's your turn.'"

Aniston co-stars with Ben Stiller in the romantic comedy "Along Came Polly," opening Friday.

Daughter hurts after hearing mom wish she had no kids

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: I am a 13-year-old girl, and I know I am not wanted. One night I heard my mom talking to her new boyfriend about wishing she had no kids so she could do things without having to sneak around. I don't know what to do.

Is it my fault that she doesn't want me? Please help me, Abby. You help so many other people—please start with me.

UNWANTED IN OTTUMWA, IOWA



Dear Abby

DEAR UNWANTED: None of this is your fault, and if your mother knew what you overheard, she would probably want her tongue amputated. I am sure she loves you very much. However, adults sometimes speak in "shorthand"—and what she MAY have been trying to communicate to her boyfriend was that, overwhelmed with parental responsibilities, she was longing for the relative freedom of her youth.

Clip this column. Show it to your mother and let her explain the specific details to you—after she apologizes, that is.

DEAR ABBY: I grew up in a small town where I was sheltered from the real world. I am now in college and realize how much I don't know.

I recently encountered a situation I had no idea how to handle. My friend confessed to me that she's gay. Although I was surprised, I wasn't upset because I love her as a friend.

Unfortunately, at the moment she poured her heart out to me, I didn't know what to say. All I could muster was, "Ummm ... OK." Abby, I felt awful!

If something like this happens again, is there proper etiquette to use? I don't want to be insensitive. Coming out is difficult enough without having to figure out what the person you confided in is feeling. Your thoughts, please.

OPEN-MINDED BUT CLUELESS

DEAR OPEN-MINDED: There is no rule of etiquette for how to react when someone comes out to you. The best advice I can offer is to think with your heart and offer your support. Say, "Thank you for trusting me enough to tell me. It doesn't change the way I feel about you. You are my friend, and I love you." It's honest. It's clear. It's reassuring. And it's what the person needs to hear.

P.S. It's not too late to say that to your friend.

DEAR ABBY: We live in the tidy beach city of Santa Monica, Calif. Just around the corner from us is a fast-food restaurant. The number of people who stop to eat in front of our house is astounding, but that's not what bothers me.

What upsets me is the number of folks who dump their trash on our lawn when they've finished eating. They are usually construction workers or parents with young children.

Since schools often read your column in class, perhaps the students could write in and give us an explanation of why this kind of littering is acceptable nowadays.

WANTING AN EXPLANATION

DEAR WANTING: We both know the reason—it's because they're too lazy to dispose of the trash in an appropriate way. In the tidy beach city of Santa Monica, and in many other cities, there are laws against littering. I suggest you inform the police about your problem. I'm sure they'll welcome the chance to gather some extra revenue for the city.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS, and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

DECORATED WITH TILES

Solution: 8 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | R | O | W | S | C | O | L | O | R | S | B | A | R | C |
| Q | P | E | L | O | S | A | K | I | T | C | H | E | N | I |
| F | O | O | R | P | R | E | T | A | W | E | W | O | R | M |
| T | O | N | R | U | I | K | I | E | S | O | P | E | P | A |
| P | E | C | M | C | T | E | Y | R | H | S | S | R | H | R |
| R | T | R | I | M | E | X | C | S | D | I | O | O | A | E |
| V | J | N | T | A | O | L | E | E | S | N | U | L | T | C |
| I | O | S | A | P | S | E | A | T | N | S | U | I | G | E |
| T | I | Q | E | R | C | O | A | I | E | G | N | A | V | Z |
| R | N | U | D | A | U | N | M | W | N | A | I | I | L | I |
| E | T | A | F | E | C | A | A | A | R | G | S | S | F | S |
| O | C | R | L | E | H | L | T | G | F | E | I | L | E | R |
| U | U | E | A | L | C | H | S | H | H | A | L | L | D | |
| S | T | P | A | V | E | D | T | D | E | T | N | I | A | P |
| R | S | D | E | R | U | S | A | E | M | R | O | O | P | M |

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Yesterday's Answer: Orchestra

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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Answer, on "Jeopardy!"

4 Part of Addams' sig.

8 Greek consonants

12 Prefer charges

13 Grate

14 Competition

15 Sham

17 Layered mineral

18 Roman council

19 Without further ado

21 Possesses

22 Fabricated report

26 Dish's mate

29 Yon lassie

30 "Ostentatious? —?"

31 Baserunner's goal

32 Mean mongrel

33 Actor Neeson

34 A long time

35 Dander

36 Chaplain

37 Deceptive

39 Somewhere out there

40 Prune

41 Flip over

45 Dad

48 Fibbed

50 Verve

51 Cookbook compiler

52 Vast expanse

53 Stare stupidly

54 One of the Mamas

55 Wapiti

2 Guaran-teed

3 Acute

4 Iraklion resident

5 Big name in hosiery

6 Chowder-head

7 Katharine's frequent

8 Diadem

9 — Solo

10 Unfriendly

11 Driver's license datum

16 Western resort lake

20 Bireme need

23 Surrounded by

24 Bellow

25 Exemplar of thinness

26 "— All That"

27 Milne bruin

28 Science magazine

29 Cry's partner

32 Mysterious

33 Future pupa

35 Judge Lance

36 Tibetan critters

38 — steak

39 Leonard Maltin's topic

42 Differently

43 Money of Cambodia

44 Ship-building wood

45 Al Bundy's wife

46 Miss. neighbor

47 Man-handle

49 Feast-famine link

Solution time: 25 mins.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | E | E | R | | C | H | I | P | | F | A | T | |
| E | L | L | E | | A | U | T | O | | U | G | H | |
| F | U | L | L | D | R | E | S | S | | L | E | I | |
| F | L | A | I | R | S | | E | L | L | E | N | | |
| | | | | E | U | | C | A | R | O | B | | |
| B | U | F | F | | C | A | B | | W | O | O | F | |
| O | S | U | | | A | P | E | | R | H | O | | |
| Y | E | L | P | | V | E | T | | H | E | M | P | |
| | | | | L | O | S | E | R | | B | O | | |
| R | O | M | E | O | | P | A | N | D | A | S | | |
| A | G | O | | | F | U | L | L | H | O | U | S | E |
| F | L | O | | A | R | E | A | | R | E | I | N | |
| T | E | N | | S | I | G | N | | S | L | A | T | |

Yesterday's answer 1-16

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY

Mason Gamble, Kate Moss, Debbie Allen, John Carpenter

HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

As long as you are confident and believe in your abilities, nothing will be able to hold you back this year. Others may back away, but your determination and courage will help you prosper in many aspects of your life. Positive interaction with others will help you gain the ground you need to move ahead of the competition. Your numbers are 6, 8, 14, 21, 34, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

You will probably have to deal with an older relative's problems today. Spend some time checking out a real estate deal or other long-term investment. Financial opportunities are likely to develop. ☺☺☺

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Partnerships can be extremely good for you, but don't let your emotions or your stubbornness get in your way. Love should be your intent. If you are too coy or inattentive, your lover may complain. ☺☺☺

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Take any opportunity you get to become closer to a colleague or your boss. You can gain ground if you form allies, but be careful not to align yourself with the wrong individual. ☺☺☺

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

This is a perfect day for love and romance. Do something nice for the one you love. Travel or attending an event you find interesting will also result in love. ☺☺☺☺☺

LEO (July 23-Aug.22)

Don't take a chance with your personal or professional life. Changes are inevitable, so prepare to accept what you must and move on. ☺☺

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Your personal but practical attitude will help you get along with everyone, which will be helpful when you are asking for help today. You will be able to find practical solutions. ☺☺☺

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Your future can change in an instant, so do the best you can and don't hesitate to apply for a better position. Professional and financial gains are apparent. ☺☺☺

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

You may find it difficult to control your emotions. Less talk and more positive action are what you should strive for. You will meet someone very enticing. ☺☺☺

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You may find yourself against a wall if you are trying to push through paperwork before the weekend officially begins. Be persistent and the people you have to deal with will comply. ☺☺☺

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Your confident approach to whatever you face will be hard to resist today. You can form partnerships and convince others to support your actions and ideas. ☺☺☺☺

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Work may not be your idea of a good time, but it will ensure that you will stay out of trouble at a personal level and make some headway professionally. You may be feeling restless — check out your options. ☺☺

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

The more active you are today, the better. Get together with people who are well informed and share common interests. Travel will lead to a creative opportunity. ☺☺☺☺☺

BIRTHDAY BABY:

You are content to go through life knowing what's best for you and never feeling the need to impress others. Your positive approach will help you receive any help you need along the way.

(Need advice? Check out Eugenia on the Web at www.astroadvice.com or www.eugenialast.com.)

Calvin and Hobbes

MY PAPER IS ENTITLED, "TYRANNOSAURUS REX: FEARSOME PREDATOR OR LOATHSOME SCAVENGER?"

AHEM...I SAY TYRANNOSAURS WERE PREDATORS, BECAUSE IT WOULD BE SO BOGUS IF THEY JUST ATE THINGS THAT WERE ALREADY DEAD. THE END.



By Bill Watterson

I'M A CONCISE WRITER, OK??

1-16

Garfield®

by Jim Davis

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THERE?

THE SAME THING YOU ARE

I PITY YOU

DITTO THE PITY, PAL

Adam@home

By Brian Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

B-B-BUT, LAURA, I C-C-CAN'T T-T-TAKE OFF MY L-L-LUCKY SOCKS. I B-B-B-BOWLED SO WELL IN THEM THE OTHER D-D-D-DAY.

SUIT YOURSELF, THOUGH I HEAR IT'S TOUGH TO BOWL WITH FROSTBITTEN TOES.

MR. CAMINO, THIS RESTRAINING ORDER RESTRICTS YOU FROM COMING WITHIN TEN FEET OF MISS WALDRAM.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

OF COURSE.

ARE YOU UP FOR A GAME OF PING PONG?

Pastimes



| NBA STANDINGS | | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|------|--------|--|
| EASTERN CONFERENCE | | | | | |
| Atlantic Division | | | | | |
| | W | L | Pct | G | |
| New Jersey | 39 | 25 | .609 | - | |
| Philadelphia | 37 | 26 | .587 | 1 1/2 | |
| Boston | 37 | 27 | .578 | 2 | |
| Orlando | 33 | 33 | .500 | 7 | |
| Washington | 31 | 33 | .484 | 8 | |
| New York | 28 | 36 | .438 | 11 | |
| Miami | 21 | 43 | .328 | 18 | |
| Central Division | | | | | |
| Detroit | 40 | 23 | .635 | - | |
| Indiana | 38 | 27 | .585 | 3 | |
| New Orleans | 37 | 29 | .561 | 4 1/2 | |
| Milwaukee | 32 | 33 | .492 | 9 | |
| Atlanta | 26 | 39 | .400 | 15 | |
| Chicago | 23 | 43 | .348 | 18 1/2 | |
| Toronto | 20 | 42 | .323 | 19 1/2 | |
| Cleveland | 11 | 53 | .172 | 29 1/2 | |
| WESTERN CONFERENCE | | | | | |
| Midwest Division | | | | | |
| Dallas | 48 | 15 | .762 | - | |
| San Antonio | 45 | 18 | .714 | 3 | |
| Minnesota | 42 | 25 | .627 | 8 | |
| Utah | 37 | 27 | .578 | 11 1/2 | |
| Houston | 33 | 30 | .524 | 15 | |
| Memphis | 23 | 41 | .359 | 25 1/2 | |
| Denver | 14 | 51 | .215 | 35 | |
| Pacific Division | | | | | |
| Sacramento | 45 | 19 | .703 | - | |
| Portland | 42 | 22 | .656 | 3 | |
| L.A. Lakers | 35 | 28 | .556 | 9 1/2 | |
| Phoenix | 33 | 30 | .524 | 11 1/2 | |
| Golden State | 31 | 33 | .484 | 14 | |
| Seattle | 28 | 34 | .452 | 16 | |
| L.A. Clippers | 20 | 44 | .313 | 25 | |

| NBA STANDINGS | | |
|--------------------|----|----|
| EASTERN CONFERENCE | | |
| Atlantic Division | | |
| Team | W | L |
| New Jersey | 31 | 14 |
| Boston | 26 | 19 |
| Philadelphia | 24 | 22 |
| Orlando | 24 | 23 |
| Washington | 22 | 24 |
| New York | 19 | 25 |
| Miami | 16 | 29 |
| Central Division | | |
| Indiana | 33 | 13 |
| Detroit | 29 | 15 |
| New Orleans | 24 | 22 |
| Milwaukee | 22 | 22 |
| Chicago | 17 | 28 |
| Atlanta | 17 | 29 |
| Toronto | 11 | 34 |
| Cleveland | 9 | 37 |
| WESTERN CONFERENCE | | |
| Midwest Division | | |
| Dallas | 35 | 9 |
| San Antonio | 29 | 16 |
| Minnesota | 27 | 18 |
| Utah | 27 | 18 |
| Houston | 24 | 20 |
| Memphis | 13 | 31 |
| Denver | 10 | 35 |
| Pacific Division | | |
| Sacramento | 32 | 14 |
| Portland | 28 | 16 |
| Phoenix | 26 | 21 |
| L.A. Lakers | 20 | 23 |
| Seattle | 20 | 23 |
| Golden State | 20 | 24 |
| L.A. Clippers | 17 | 28 |

| NBA STANDINGS | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| EASTERN CONFERENCE | | |
| Atlantic Division | | |
| Orlando | 2 | 0 |
| New Jersey | 1 | 0 |
| Philadelphia | 1 | 1 |
| Boston | 0 | 1 |
| Miami | 0 | 1 |
| New York | 0 | 1 |
| Washington | 0 | 1 |
| Central Division | | |
| Chicago | 1 | 0 |
| Detroit | 1 | 0 |
| Indiana | 1 | 0 |
| Toronto | 1 | 0 |
| New Orleans | 0 | 0 |
| Atlanta | 0 | 1 |
| Cleveland | 0 | 1 |
| Milwaukee | 0 | 1 |
| WESTERN CONFERENCE | | |
| Midwest Division | | |
| Dallas | 1 | 0 |
| Minnesota | 1 | 0 |
| San Antonio | 1 | 0 |
| Utah | 0 | 0 |
| Denver | 0 | 1 |
| Houston | 0 | 1 |
| Memphis | 0 | 1 |
| Pacific Division | | |
| Sacramento | 1 | 0 |
| Portland | 1 | 0 |
| Golden State | 0 | 0 |
| L.A. Clippers | 0 | 0 |
| Phoenix | 0 | 0 |
| Seattle | 0 | 0 |
| L.A. Lakers | 0 | 2 |
| Wednesday's Games | | |
| Chicago 99, Boston 96 | | |
| Indiana 91, Houston 82 | | |
| Toronto 74, Washington 68 | | |
| Philadelphia 95, Milwaukee 93 | | |
| Orlando 100, Miami 86 | | |
| New Jersey 105, Atlanta 94 | | |
| Dallas 119, Memphis 108 | | |
| Minnesota 83, Denver 77 | | |
| Detroit 86, New York 77 | | |
| Portland 102, L.A. Lakers 90 | | |

| Team | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | T |
|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| Giants | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | - | 3 | |
| Hustlers | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | - | 13 |



SPORTS BRIEFS



Spurs defeat Mavericks, 111-104

Tony Parker scored a career-high 32 points, including seven free throws in the final minute, to lead the San Antonio Spurs to a 111-104 win over the division rival Dallas Mavericks on Wednesday night.

48

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Yearend RGA champion tourney tomorrow

The Refaluwasch Golf Association will hold their yearend Club Champion Tournament tomorrow, December 14, at the Lao Lao West golf course.

51

